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THEN

1. Take the whole stack out of the printer. Keep the sheets in order.
2. Fold the stack in half, so this page is on the outside.
3. Staple twice along the fold.



Make another at didtheyreallyread.com

Reading Journal

My thoughts, chapter by chapter

Reader:

Book Title:

Blended

Author:

Sharon M. Draper

Date Started:

Date Finished:

Keep reading. Keep wondering.
Created by didtheyreallyread.com

How to Answer

Your answer does not have to be perfect. Just answer in complete thoughts and use details from the chapter.

How to structure your answer

A strong answer usually has a few parts. Try these steps:

- 1. **Answer the question.** Start with one sentence that answers the question directly.
- 2. **Give an example.** Add a detail or moment from the chapter that shows what you mean.
- 3. **Explain why.** Tell why it mattered, or how it made you think or feel.
- 4. **Wrap it up.** Finish with a closing thought, a question, or a prediction.

What has Isabella said or thought so far about being biracial, and why might that feel complicated for her?

Example answer: I think Isabella feels like people want her to choose one side of herself, but she cannot do that because both sides are truly part of her. She has a white mother and a Black father, so her identity is connected to both of them. That could feel complicated because other people may not understand her whole story. I think she wants to be seen as all of who she is, not just one label.

Chapter 64

After this chapter, what do you hope Isabella carries forward, and why would that matter for her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 63

What message about fairness, respect, or justice can you take from this part of the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

How to Answer (continued)

If you were Isabella’s friend at school, what kind of support would you offer her, and why?

Example answer: If I were Isabella’s friend, I would listen without acting like I already knew how she felt. I would also invite her to sit with me or talk when she needed a break from worrying about family stuff. I would not make jokes about her parents’ divorce or her race. A good friend should help her feel like she belongs.

In what ways can the word "blended" mean more than just a family structure in Isabella’s life?

Example answer: The word "blended" can mean Isabella’s family because her parents are divorced and her life includes more than one home. It can also mean her identity because she is biracial and has more than one part of herself. I think it can even connect to music, because different notes can come together to make one song. For Isabella, being blended is not always simple, but it is part of what makes her who she is.

Chapter 1

So far, what problem seems to be weighing most on Isabella, and what details show that it matters to her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 62

How do serious topics and everyday kid moments fit together in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 61

What evidence shows that Isabella is learning more about herself or about other people?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

In this chapter, how does moving between her mother's home and her father's home affect Isabella's feelings or routines?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

What detail about Cincinnati, Isabella’s school, or one of her homes helped you picture the setting clearly?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 60

How does Isabella’s view of family seem different now than it did earlier in the book?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 59

Which moment from this chapter would you want to reread, and what would you look for the second time?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

Describe a moment when Isabella seems caught between two sides. What makes that moment difficult for her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

What has Isabella said or thought so far about being biracial, and why might that feel complicated for her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 58

How does the author use dialogue to show what characters are feeling or avoiding?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 57

What possible theme is becoming clearer in this chapter? Use evidence to explain it.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

What role does music or piano seem to play in Isabella’s life at this point in the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

Which adult in Isabella’s life seems to understand her best right now? Use evidence from the chapter.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 56

How is Isabella balancing what other people expect from her with what she wants for herself?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 55

Pick one important word from the chapter. How does that word connect to a bigger idea in the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

If you could ask Isabella one honest question after this chapter, what would it be, and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

What do you predict Isabella might do the next time she has to switch between her parents' homes? Explain your thinking.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 54

What does this chapter show about courage, even if the courage is quiet or small?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 53

If you could give advice to one adult in Isabella’s life, what would you say?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 10

Name one small choice a character makes in this chapter. What does that choice reveal about the character?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 11

Compare the rules or expectations in Isabella’s two homes. How do they seem alike or different so far?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 52

What part of this chapter felt most realistic to you, and what made it believable?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 51

How does love show up in complicated ways in Isabella’s family?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 12

Choose a word or phrase from this chapter about family, race, or music. What do you think it means, and why is it important?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 13

What emotions does Isabella show in this chapter, even if she does not say them directly?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 50

What question are you still wondering about after this chapter? Why does that question matter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 49

What does Isabella’s inner voice help you understand that other characters might not notice?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 14

How does Sharon M. Draper make Isabella’s voice sound like a real kid? Give one example from the chapter.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 15

Which relationship in the story seems most complicated right now, and what makes it that way?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 48

Describe the mood of this chapter. What words, actions, or events create that mood?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 47

What important decision does someone make in this chapter, and what might happen because of it?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 16

What kind of unfairness has Isabella noticed so far? How does the chapter help you understand it?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 17

If you were Isabella’s friend at school, what kind of support would you offer her, and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 46

How does the tension rise or fall in this chapter? Describe the moment that changes it.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 45

What would you write in a short note or text to Isabella after reading this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 18

What does this chapter suggest about how divorce can affect a child, even when both parents love that child?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 19

How do differences in money, lifestyle, or space between the two homes affect Isabella's thoughts or feelings?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 44

Which character seems to need more understanding from others right now? Give reasons for your answer.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 43

What does the chapter teach about race or identity without sounding like a lecture?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 20

What do you think Isabella wants most right now? Use clues from the chapter to support your answer.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 21

Find a moment of humor, kindness, or warmth in the chapter. How does it change the mood?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 42

What personal connection can you make to feeling between groups, places, or expectations?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 41

In what ways does Isabella seem to be changing from the girl she was at the beginning of the book?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 22

How do scenes at school connect with what is happening in Isabella’s family life?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 23

What does Isabella seem to be learning about speaking up or staying quiet?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 40

If this chapter had a title written by you, what would it be, and how would the title fit the chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 39

How are the choices made by adults influencing Isabella’s choices or feelings?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 24

Which character’s words or actions surprised you in this chapter, and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 25

In what ways can the word "blended" mean more than just a family structure in Isabella's life?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 38

Which setting in this chapter feels safest or least safe for Isabella? Explain your answer.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 37

What lesson about assumptions appears in this part of the book?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 26

What prediction can you make about one friendship or family relationship? What clues helped you decide?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 27

Describe one choice Isabella makes in this chapter. Do you agree with it? Why or why not?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 36

When characters disagree in this chapter, how do they handle it? What could they do better?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 35

Point to one detail that might become important later. Why did it stand out to you?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 28

What does this chapter show about the importance of listening carefully to other people?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 29

How does Isabella react when people try to label her or put her into one group?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 34

How do stepfamily or extended family relationships affect Isabella's sense of belonging?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 33

What new information did you learn about Isabella’s mother or father, and how did it affect your opinion of that parent?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 30

Choose an object, place, song, or piece of music that seems meaningful so far. What might it represent?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 31

What is one conflict in this chapter, and why is it not easy to solve?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 32

How does the author help you feel empathy for Isabella in this part of the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
