

# How to print this booklet

---

Open the PDF, choose Print, and set these:

|                     |                                        |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Paper size          | US Letter (8.5 × 11 in)                |
| Orientation         | Landscape                              |
| Print on both sides | On (two-sided / duplex)                |
| Flip on             | Short edge                             |
| Scale               | 100% / Actual size — not “Fit to page” |
| Pages               | All                                    |

## 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](http://didtheyreallyread.com)

# Reading Journal

---

My thoughts, chapter by chapter

**Reader:**

---

**Book Title:**

Chains

---

**Author:**

Laurie Halse Anderson

---

**Date Started:**

---

**Date Finished:**

---

*Keep reading. Keep wondering.*  
Created by [didtheyreallyread.com](http://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.

**Choose one strong word or phrase from the chapter you just read. What do you think it means, and why is it important?**

**Example answer:** One strong phrase I noticed was about chains. I think it means more than metal that locks someone up. It also means the rules, fear, and unfair power that keep Isabel from living freely. The word is important because the whole book keeps making me think about what freedom really means.

## How to Answer (continued)

---

**What does freedom mean to Isabel so far? Is it the same thing that freedom means to the adults around her? Explain.**

**Example answer:** To me, freedom means Isabel being able to make choices for herself and protect Ruth. It is not just about the war or which side wins. Some adults talk about freedom for the colonies, but they still do not treat Isabel as free. That makes the word freedom feel complicated and unfair.

**How does Isabel use observation, intelligence, or quick thinking to survive?**

**Example answer:** I think Isabel survives by watching people carefully and noticing what they care about. She does not always have power, so she has to use her mind. She pays attention to danger before she acts. This shows that she is brave, but also smart enough to be cautious.

# Chapter 1

At this point in the story, what do you understand about Isabel's situation, and which details from the text helped you figure that out?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 45

Looking back over the whole reading so far, what do you think Isabel's biggest chain is, and what might help her break it?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 2

In the pages you read, how does Isabel show that she cares about Ruth? Give one example and explain what it shows about Isabel.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 3

What do you notice about the choices Isabel can make and the choices she is not allowed to make? What causes those limits?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 44

Which theme seems strongest right now: freedom, courage, family, loyalty, or survival? Explain your thinking.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 43

What is Isabel learning about promises or bargains? Give an example from the story so far.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 4

Which character seems to have the most power right now? How does Laurie Halse Anderson show that power?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 5

What question would you ask Isabel if you could talk to her at this point in the book, and why would you ask it?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 42

How has your opinion of one character changed as you have read? What caused the change?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 41

What is the mood of this part of the book? What details create that mood?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 6

How does the setting of colonial America affect the problems Isabel faces so far?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 7

Choose one strong word or phrase from the chapter you just read. What do you think it means, and why is it important?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 40

If you could give Isabel one piece of advice based on what you know right now, what would it be and why?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 39

How do names, identity, or being truly seen matter in the story so far?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 8

How are Patriots and Loyalists talked about so far, and why might that difference matter to an enslaved girl like Isabel?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 9

Describe one moment that felt unfair to you.  
What made it unfair, and how did Isabel react?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 38

What is one thing Isabel wants that is different  
from what powerful people around her want?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 37

When Isabel is treated unjustly, how does she respond on the inside and on the outside?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 10

What impression do you have of Madam Lockton so far? Use details from the story to support your thinking.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 11

How does Ruth's presence change Isabel's thoughts, feelings, or actions?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 36

What does friendship, or possible friendship, mean in Isabel's world? Use an example from the story so far.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 35

How does the author use sounds, smells, sights, or feelings to make the setting seem real?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 12

What has Curzon said or done that affects Isabel's choices? Do you think she should trust him? Why or why not?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 13

How does Laurie Halse Anderson help you understand Isabel's fear, hope, or anger in this part of the story?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 34

Describe a mistake, misunderstanding, or hard choice that affects Isabel. What can a reader learn from it?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 33

How does hope appear in this part of the story, even when things are very hard?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 14

Which object, place, or repeated idea seems important in the story right now? Explain why you noticed it.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 15

What choice or problem is Isabel facing now, and what risks might come with each possible decision?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 32

Which character would you like to understand better right now? What are you curious or confused about?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 31

What has changed most for Isabel since the beginning of the book? How has that change affected her?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 16

How does New York City feel as a setting so far: safe, dangerous, busy, confusing, or something else? Use details from the book.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 17

Compare what Isabel says or does on the outside with what she thinks or feels on the inside. Why might she hide her true feelings?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 30

How does the war make life more dangerous for people who have little power, such as Isabel and Ruth?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 29

What does the title Chains make you think about at this point? Include both real chains and invisible kinds of chains.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 18

What does freedom mean to Isabel so far? Is it the same thing that freedom means to the adults around her? Explain.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 19

How does the author show that slavery hurts both a person's body and a person's spirit?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 28

How does Isabel use observation, intelligence, or quick thinking to survive?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 27

How do rules or laws affect Isabel's life in this part of the book? Do they seem fair or unfair? Why?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 20

What prediction can you make about Isabel's next important decision? What evidence from the story supports your prediction?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 21

Which adult in the story seems most helpful, harmful, or complicated so far? Explain your choice.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 26

Which line, thought, or conversation from the chapter stayed with you? Explain why it seemed important.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 25

What scene from the reading would you draw if you were making an illustration? Describe the important visual details.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 22

How do secrets and information create danger or opportunity for Isabel?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 23

What have you learned about Mr. Lockton so far, and why might Isabel need to be careful around him?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---

# Chapter 24

How is trust difficult for Isabel? Choose one relationship from the story and explain.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

-----  
New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

---

---