

How to print this booklet

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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

Reading Journal

My thoughts, chapter by chapter

Reader:

Book Title:

Diamond Willow

Author:

Helen Frost

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.

How does Helen Frost’s diamond-shaped poetry affect the way you read Willow’s story?

Example answer: I notice that the diamond-shaped poems make me read more slowly. The shape reminds me of the title and also makes the story feel special, like each poem has something hidden inside it. I pay attention to the words in the middle and the feelings behind them. It makes Willow’s voice seem careful and honest.

Chapter 60

Looking back over the whole story, how has Willow changed from the beginning to now?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 59

Which theme feels strongest near the end of the book: family, bravery, forgiveness, identity, or connection to nature? Explain.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

How to Answer (continued)

What conflict feels most important right now: Willow versus herself, others, nature, or a problem? Explain.

Example answer: I think the most important conflict is Willow versus herself. She wants to be trusted and seen as capable, but she also has to think about what is safe and wise. This makes her choices feel difficult because she is not just fighting an outside problem. She is also trying to understand who she is becoming.

Looking back over the whole story, how has Willow changed from the beginning to now?

Example answer: At the beginning, I saw Willow as someone who really wanted to prove herself. By the end, she seems more thoughtful about responsibility, family, and the animals she loves. She still has courage, but now it feels less like showing off and more like caring for others. I think she understands herself and her place in her family better than before.

Chapter 1

What did you learn so far about Willow’s life in Alaska, and how does the setting shape her everyday choices?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 58

What ending do you hope for at this point, and what clues make that hope possible?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 57

How does Willow balance independence with needing help from others?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

How would you describe Willow’s relationship with Roxy at this point, using evidence from what you just read?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

Which moment in this chapter best shows that dog mushing takes skill and responsibility, and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 56

What message about healing—physical or emotional—can you find in this part?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 55

Which relationship has changed the most so far, and what caused the change?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

What do Willow’s thoughts or actions reveal about what she wants most right now?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

How does Helen Frost’s diamond-shaped poetry affect the way you read Willow’s story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 54

How does the author build suspense without using a lot of ordinary prose?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 53

What choice made by a character seems loving but complicated?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

Find a word or phrase connected to snow, cold, or wilderness; what does it help you picture?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

Why might Willow feel pulled between proving herself and listening to the adults in her family?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 52

How might the past be influencing the present in Willow’s story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 51

What new feeling did this chapter give you about Willow’s parents or grandparents?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

What question do you have about Willow’s family history after reading this part?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

In what way does Roxy act like more than just a pet to Willow?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 50

How is the idea of home shown in this chapter—through people, animals, place, or memory?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 49

What connection can you make between Willow’s experiences and a time you had to earn trust?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 10

How are trust and safety important in the events or feelings you read about?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 11

Which character seems to understand Willow best so far, and what makes you think that?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 48

How does Willow show perseverance even when the situation is not easy?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 47

Which vocabulary word or mushing term would you explain to a classmate, and how would you explain it?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 12

What prediction can you make about how Willow’s choices may affect her dogs or family?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 13

How does the Alaskan wilderness seem beautiful, dangerous, or both in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 46

How do secrets or things left unsaid affect the characters in this part?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 45

What do you think Roxy understands about Willow, based on what has happened so far?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 14

What hidden message, image, or line stood out to you in the poem, and what meaning did you notice?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 15

If you could give Willow one piece of advice right now, what would it be and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 44

How does the author make a quiet moment feel important?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 43

If you were on the trail with Willow, what would you be paying attention to and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 16

How does this part show Willow learning from a mistake, a worry, or a challenge?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 17

What details about the sled dogs help you understand their personalities or jobs?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 42

What clue from earlier reading became more important in this section?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 41

How does this chapter connect love with worry, fear, or protection?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 18

How does Willow respond when she feels afraid, uncertain, or determined?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 19

What theme about courage is beginning to appear, and where do you see it?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 40

What seems hardest for Willow to admit to herself or to someone else?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 39

How does the form of the poems help show both the outside action and Willow’s inside feelings?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 20

Choose one important decision from this reading; what possible consequences could it have?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 21

How do the adults around Willow help, limit, or misunderstand her so far?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 38

Which character’s point of view would you like to hear more from, and what might they say?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 37

What lesson about responsibility is Willow facing at this point?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 22

What does this chapter suggest about the bond between people and animals?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 23

Which sensory detail helped you feel the cold, movement, sound, or silence of the trail?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 36

How do the animal-spirit parts, if they appear in your reading, add another layer to the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 35

What does Willow notice that another character might miss, and what does that show about her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 24

How might Willow’s ideas about herself be changing as the story continues?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 25

What is one thing you know now that you did not know before about Willow’s community or culture?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 34

Describe a time in this chapter when communication matters, either spoken or unspoken.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 33

What mystery or unanswered question is growing in the story so far?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 26

When does the writing make you slow down and think carefully, and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 27

How does Roxy’s behavior or condition affect the mood of this section?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 32

How does the author use the natural world to reflect Willow’s emotions?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 31

What can readers learn about patience from Willow, Roxy, or the dog team?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 28

What conflict feels most important right now: Willow versus herself, others, nature, or a problem? Explain.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 29

Which line or scene would you choose as the “heart” of this chapter, and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 30

How do family expectations influence Willow’s feelings or actions in this part?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
