

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

Reading Journal

My thoughts, chapter by chapter

Reader:

Book Title:

Dork Diaries

Author:

Rachel Renée Russell

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 Nikki react when she feels embarrassed or out of place, and what does that show about her?

Example answer: Nikki often reacts by worrying a lot and writing dramatic thoughts in her diary. I think this shows that she is sensitive and really wants people to accept her. At the same time, she keeps going even when she feels awkward. That makes her seem nervous but also brave.

How to Answer (continued)

How does Rachel Renée Russell use humor to make a serious feeling, like embarrassment or loneliness, easier to read about?

Example answer: The author uses Nikki's funny diary voice to make hard feelings less upsetting. When Nikki is embarrassed, she describes it in a silly or over-the-top way, so I can laugh but still understand her problem. The humor helps me see that embarrassing moments happen to everyone. It also makes Nikki feel like a real kid.

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

Example answer: I would title this chapter "Trying to Fit In" because Nikki is thinking a lot about how other students see her. She wants things to go well, but school keeps feeling complicated. This title fits because the chapter shows both her worries and her hope that things can get better.

Chapter 1

In this chapter, what is the most important thing Nikki Maxwell wants or worries about, and how can you tell?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 45

Looking back on the chapter you just read, how does it add to the bigger story of Nikki trying to survive middle school?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

So far, how does Nikki’s diary voice help you understand her feelings better than if someone else told the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

What new information about Nikki’s school life at Westchester Country Day did you learn in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 44

How fair or unfair do you think the situation in this chapter is for Nikki? Give reasons.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 43

What is one thing a character says or does that changes the mood of the chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

How does Nikki react when she feels embarrassed or out of place, and what does that show about her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

What role does friendship play in this chapter, especially with Chloe, Zoey, or other classmates?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 42

How does the chapter build suspense or make you want to keep reading?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 41

What do Nikki’s reactions tell you about her strengths and weaknesses?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

How is MacKenzie Hollister shown so far, and what clues help you understand Nikki’s opinion of her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

Choose one word or phrase from this chapter that stands out to you. What does it mean, and why did the author use it?

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 why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 39

What lesson could a reader take from Nikki's experience in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

What problem or conflict seems most important right now, and what might make it harder for Nikki to solve?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

How do Nikki’s drawings, lists, or diary-style details add humor or personality to this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 38

How does this chapter connect to a time when you or someone you know felt nervous about fitting in?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 37

What is one obstacle Nikki faces because she feels different from other students?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 10

What is one choice Nikki makes in this chapter, and do you think it was a good choice? Explain.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 11

So far, what has Nikki learned about trying to fit in at a new or difficult school?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 36

How does Nikki use creativity, such as writing, drawing, fashion, music, or ideas, in this part of the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 35

What is one sentence, joke, or description that helped you picture the scene clearly?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 12

How does Brandon Roberts affect Nikki's thoughts or actions in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 13

What does this chapter show about the difference between how Nikki sees herself and how others might see her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 34

Which character would you want to sit with at lunch after reading this chapter, and what would you talk about?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 33

What does this chapter show about the way rumors, secrets, or misunderstandings can affect people at school?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 14

If you could give Nikki advice at the end of this chapter, what would you tell her and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 15

What moment in this chapter felt funniest, most surprising, or most dramatic to you? What made it stand out?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 32

How does the diary format make the chapter feel private, personal, or funny?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 31

What does Nikki value most in this chapter: friendship, popularity, honesty, creativity, or something else? Explain.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 16

How does Nikki’s family, including Brianna, add to the challenges or humor in her life so far?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 17

What is one example of peer pressure or wanting to be popular in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 30

Compare Nikki with MacKenzie, Chloe, Zoey, Brandon, or Brianna in this chapter. How are they alike or different?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 29

What detail from this chapter would you include in a summary, and what detail would you leave out? Why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 18

How does the author make everyday school problems feel important to Nikki?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 19

What prediction can you make about Nikki’s next problem or goal based on this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 28

How does Nikki handle a mistake, awkward moment, or problem in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 27

What is one question you still have after this chapter, and why are you curious about it?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 20

Which character showed kindness, courage, or honesty in this chapter? Use details to support your answer.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 21

What setting in this chapter, such as school, home, or another place, affects what happens? How?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 26

How does Rachel Renée Russell use humor to make a serious feeling, like embarrassment or loneliness, easier to read about?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 25

What is something Nikki misunderstands, exaggerates, or worries too much about in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 22

How do Nikki’s feelings change from the beginning to the end of this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 23

What does this chapter suggest about being yourself instead of pretending to be someone else?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 24

Pick a conversation or moment between characters. What does it reveal about their relationship?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
