

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:

Fourth Grade Rats

Author:

Jerry Spinelli

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.

Chapter 3: What are some ways Suds tries to act tougher in this chapter? Do his actions seem natural to him, or does he seem uncomfortable? Explain.

Example answer: I think Suds tries to act tougher because he wants Joey to think he belongs in fourth grade. He does things that do not really match his true personality. To me, he seems uncomfortable because he is not acting from his heart. He is more worried about what other people think than about what feels right.

Chapter 15

Chapter 15: At the end of the book, what do you think Suds has learned about himself? Would you have made the same choices he did? Why or why not?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

How to Answer (continued)

Chapter 8: Make a prediction: If Suds keeps following Joey’s advice, what might happen to his friendships or family relationships? Why?

Example answer: I predict that Suds might get into more trouble if he keeps listening to Joey. His family may feel hurt or confused because they know he is usually kinder than that. His friends might also stop trusting him if he acts mean just to look tough. I think Suds will have to decide whether being a rat is really worth it.

Chapter 15: At the end of the book, what do you think Suds has learned about himself? Would you have made the same choices he did? Why or why not?

Example answer: I think Suds learns that growing up does not mean you have to be mean or tough all the time. He finds out that being himself is better than pretending to be like Joey. I probably would have felt pressure too, because it is hard when a friend tells you how to act. But I hope I would choose to be kind, even if other kids called me babyish.

Chapter 1

Chapter 1: How does Suds feel about moving from third grade to fourth grade, and what does Joey tell him about being a “fourth grade rat”?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 14

Chapter 14: What theme, or big message, do you think the author is showing through Suds’s struggles with acting tough?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 13

Chapter 13: Compare Joey and Suds. How are they alike, and how are they different in the way they handle growing up?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

Chapter 2: Why do you think Joey wants Suds to stop acting like a “third grade angel”? What does this show about Joey’s personality?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

Chapter 3: What are some ways Suds tries to act tougher in this chapter? Do his actions seem natural to him, or does he seem uncomfortable? Explain.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 12

Chapter 12: How does Suds’s opinion about being a fourth grade rat change in this chapter? What causes that change?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 11

Chapter 11: Choose one strong word from this chapter that shows a character’s feelings. What does the word mean, and why is it a good choice?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

Chapter 4: How do Suds’s choices at home affect the way his family treats him? Use details from the chapter in your answer.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

Chapter 5: What does the word “rat” seem to mean to Joey and Suds in this story? How is it different from the animal called a rat?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 10

Chapter 10: What lesson is Suds beginning to learn about trying to be someone he is not?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

Chapter 9: How does Suds act around Judy or other classmates in this chapter? What does his behavior show about what he wants people to think of him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

Chapter 6: How does Suds’s friendship with Joey influence the decisions he makes? Give one example from the chapter.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

Chapter 7: What problem is Suds facing inside himself? How can you tell he is not completely sure about being a rat?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

Chapter 8: Make a prediction: If Suds keeps following Joey’s advice, what might happen to his friendships or family relationships? Why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
