

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:

Ground Zero

Author:

Alan Gratz

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 Reshmina feel about school, learning, and her future? What do her thoughts show about her character?

Example answer: I think Reshmina cares a lot about learning because she sees school as a way to have a better future. She does not want her life to be only about fear and war. Her thoughts show that she is brave and hopeful, even when things around her are dangerous. I also think she is determined because she keeps wanting more for herself.

How to Answer (continued)

Reshmina decides whether to hide or protect Taz. What does her decision show about her values?

Example answer: Reshmina's decision shows that she believes a hurt person should be helped, even if that person is supposed to be her enemy. I think she values kindness and doing what is right more than just following fear. She also knows her choice could bring danger to her family, so it is not an easy decision. That makes her seem very brave to me.

How has Reshmina's view of the "enemy" changed or become more complicated?

Example answer: At first, I think Reshmina mostly sees Americans as part of the war that has hurt her village. When she meets Taz, she starts to see him as a real person, not just an enemy. This makes her feelings more complicated because she can be angry about the war but still feel compassion for one soldier. I think the author wants readers to understand that people on different sides can still be human.

Chapter 1

How does the first chapter introduce Brandon and the setting of the World Trade Center? What details make the morning feel normal before anything goes wrong?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 50

After reading the whole book, how did the alternating chapters help you understand the effects of 9/11 and the war in Afghanistan?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 49

What lesson from the book do you think readers should remember after finishing it?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

Why is Brandon at work with his dad, and what do you learn about their relationship in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

What do you learn about Reshmina’s home, family, and daily life in Afghanistan? How is her world different from Brandon’s?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 48

What moment near the ending gave you hope, sadness, or both? Explain your reaction.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 47

How do Brandon’s story and Reshmina’s story connect in ideas, feelings, or lessons?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

What does Pagoon say or do that shows what he wants for his future? How does Reshmina react to him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

When the first plane hits the tower, how does Brandon respond? What does this show about him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 46

Which decision near the end of the story has the biggest consequences? Explain why you chose it.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 45

Choose a strong word, image, or description from this chapter. Why is it effective?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

What details in this chapter help you picture the danger and confusion inside the tower?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

How does Reshmina feel about school, learning, and her future? What do her thoughts show about her character?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 44

What message do you think the author is giving about revenge? Use a detail from the chapter to support your idea.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 43

How do small acts of kindness make a difference in a dangerous situation?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

How do Reshmina and Pagoon respond differently when danger comes near their village? What does this tell you about each twin?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

Brandon has to depend on other people to survive. Who helps him in this chapter, and how?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 42

What does Pagoon's path show about how anger and grief can influence a person's choices?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 41

How has Reshmina’s view of the “enemy” changed or become more complicated?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 10

The title of the book is Ground Zero. Based on what you have read so far, what do you think that phrase might mean in the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 11

What obstacles make it hard for Brandon to move toward safety? How does he keep going?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 40

How has Brandon changed from the beginning of the book to this point? Give at least one example.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 39

What act of sacrifice or support stands out in this chapter? Why is it meaningful?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 12

How does Reshmina's family react to the fighting nearby? What does their reaction show about living in a war zone?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 13

How does the author build suspense by switching between Brandon’s story and Reshmina’s story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 38

Now that you have read more of the book, what does the title Ground Zero mean to you?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 37

How do rumors, fear, or missing information affect what the characters decide to do?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 14

What does Brandon learn about courage in this chapter? Use one event to explain your answer.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 15

What choice does Reshmina make when she finds the injured American soldier? Why is this choice difficult?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 36

If you could give Reshmina advice in this chapter, what would you tell her? Use details from the story.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 35

If you could ask Brandon one question at this point in the story, what would you ask and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 16

Why could helping a stranger be dangerous for Reshmina and her family? What risks does she have to think about?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 17

How do Brandon’s memories of getting in trouble at school affect the way you understand him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 34

How does the author show the cost of war on regular people, not just soldiers?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 33

Which character shows resilience in this chapter? What actions prove that the character does not give up?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 18

What do you predict will happen if Pashoon keeps being drawn toward the Taliban? Explain your thinking.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 19

Which adult character has the biggest effect on Brandon in this chapter? How does that person help or hurt the situation?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 32

What do you predict will happen because Taz is with Reshmina's family? Give reasons from the story.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 31

How does danger in Afghanistan change quickly in this chapter? What does that teach the reader about war?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 20

What theme about fear and bravery is shown in this part of the book?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 21

How does Reshmina see Taz when she first spends time with him? Does she trust him? Why or why not?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 30

What does Brandon realize about his father or his family during the crisis?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 29

Which scene in this chapter felt the most intense to you? What made it feel that way?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 22

Reshmina decides whether to hide or protect Taz. What does her decision show about her values?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 23

What examples of helpers does Brandon notice during the disaster? Why are those helpers important?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 28

In what ways are Brandon and Reshmina both trapped or challenged, even though they live in different times and places?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 27

What do you learn about Pason's feelings toward Americans? What events may have shaped those feelings?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 24

Choose one unfamiliar word or phrase from this chapter. What do you think it means, and what clues helped you figure it out?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 25

How do the dust, smoke, noise, or darkness affect the mood of Brandon’s chapters?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 26

How does Reshmina try to balance loyalty to her family with doing what she believes is right?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
