

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:

Hidden Talents

Author:

David Lubar

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.

So far, what does the book suggest about labels like “troublemaker” or “problem kid”? Do you think those labels are fair to Martin or the other boys? Why or why not?

Example answer: I think the book is showing that labels can be unfair because they only tell one part of a person’s story. Martin gets treated like he is just a problem, but he is also smart and notices a lot about people. The other boys at Edgeview may act strange or difficult, but that does not mean they are bad. I think the author wants readers to look deeper before judging someone.

Chapter 36

Based on everything you have read up to now, what do you hope will happen next for Martin and the boys at Edgeview? Explain why that outcome would feel satisfying.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 35

What do you think Martin has learned about the other boys' strengths so far? Give one example of a strength that may not be obvious at first.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

How to Answer (continued)

Think about the idea of a “hidden talent.” What might that phrase mean in the story, and what might it mean in real life?

Example answer: In the story, a hidden talent might be an ability that other people do not understand yet. It could look like trouble at first because it is unusual or hard to control. In real life, I think a hidden talent can be something a person is good at but has not had a chance to show. This makes me think that people need patience and encouragement.

What do you think the adults at Edgeview understand or misunderstand about the students? Use details from the chapter to explain.

Example answer: I think some adults at Edgeview understand that the students need rules, but they may misunderstand why the boys act the way they do. They seem to focus on the trouble instead of asking what is behind it. Martin and the other boys are more than their mistakes. If the adults listened more closely, they might see their strengths too.

Chapter 1

After this first chapter, what do you know about Martin Anderson and why he does not fit easily into a regular school? Use details from the chapter to explain your thinking.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 34

What emotion did you feel most strongly while reading this chapter, such as worry, anger, amusement, or hope? Explain what caused that feeling.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 33

How does the theme of belonging show up in what you read today? Explain who wants to belong and what makes it difficult.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

So far, how does Edgeview Alternative School seem different from the kind of school Martin was used to? Describe the mood of the place and what makes it feel that way.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

What first impression do you get of Martin as a narrator? Explain whether he seems honest, funny, angry, lonely, or something else, and support your answer with evidence.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 32

Which event in this chapter seems most important to the plot? Explain why it may matter later without giving away anything beyond this chapter.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 31

What has changed for Martin since the beginning of the book? Describe one change in his situation, his attitude, or his relationships.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

Choose one new or interesting word from this chapter. What do you think it means, and how does it help you understand Martin, Edgeview, or the situation better?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

Martin often notices things about people quickly. What is one thing he observes in this chapter, and what does that observation tell you about him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 30

If this chapter had a different title, what would you call it? Explain how your title fits the main idea or feeling of the chapter.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 29

What do you think the adults at Edgeview understand or misunderstand about the students? Use details from the chapter to explain.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

How are the other boys at Edgeview beginning to seem more complicated than their nicknames or reputations? Give one example from what you have read so far.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

What prediction can you make about Martin’s life at Edgeview? Explain what clues from the story make you think that will happen.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 28

How does Martin use his intelligence or quick thinking in this part of the story? Describe what he does and why it matters.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 27

What do the boys at Edgeview seem to need most right now: trust, safety, friendship, respect, or something else? Explain your choice.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

So far, what does the book suggest about labels like “troublemaker” or “problem kid”? Do you think those labels are fair to Martin or the other boys? Why or why not?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

Pick one character Martin has met at Edgeview, such as Torchie, Cheater, Flinch, Lucky, or Trash. What do you understand about that character so far, and what questions do you still have?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 26

Choose a sentence, phrase, or description from this chapter that created a strong picture in your mind. What did you picture, and why was it effective?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 25

What lesson about judging people too quickly can readers take from the story so far? Connect your answer to Martin or one of the boys at Edgeview.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 10

How does humor affect the way serious problems are shown in the story? Give an example of a moment that is funny but also tells you something important.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 11

What conflict is Martin facing right now? Explain whether it is mostly with other people, with the school, or inside himself.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 24

How does Martin's opinion of another character seem to be changing? Give evidence from what he thinks, says, or does.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 23

What is one problem at Edgeview that seems bigger than just one student? Explain how that problem affects Martin or the other boys.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 12

If you could give Martin one piece of advice at this point in the book, what would you tell him? Explain why that advice might help him.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 13

What clues has the author given that some students at Edgeview may have unusual abilities or “hidden talents”? Describe the clues without jumping ahead.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 22

Which character’s actions surprised you most in this chapter? Explain what you expected and how the character acted instead.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 21

Think about the idea of a “hidden talent.” What might that phrase mean in the story, and what might it mean in real life?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 14

How does Martin react when something strange or unfair happens around him? What does his reaction show about his personality?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 15

In this chapter, what is one detail about Edgeview that stood out to you? Explain how that detail adds to the setting or the feeling of the story.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 20

How does the author build suspense in this chapter? Point to something that made you want to keep reading.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 19

What is one question you would ask Martin if you could talk to him right now? Explain why you want to know the answer.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 16

Which character seems most misunderstood so far? Explain what other people seem to think about that character and what you think might be true.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 17

What do Martin’s choices in this part of the book reveal about how he handles fear, pressure, or danger? Use a specific moment from the chapter.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 18

So far, how are friendships beginning to form or change at Edgeview? Describe one relationship and what makes it interesting.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
