

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:

I Survived the Great Chicago Fire, 1871

Author:

Lauren Tarshis

Date Started:

Date Finished:

Keep reading. Keep wondering.
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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 1 begins in a dangerous moment during the fire. What details help you picture the scene, and how do they make you feel about Oscar's situation?

Example answer: I can picture the fire because the author describes the heat, smoke, and people trying to escape.

Those details make the scene feel scary and fast-moving. I felt worried for Oscar because he seems trapped in a disaster that is much bigger than he is. It made me want to keep reading to find out how he survives.

Chapter 15

At the end of the book, what do you think Oscar has learned from surviving the Great Chicago Fire? How might his future be different?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

How to Answer (continued)

In this chapter, Oscar learns more about Jennie and Bruno. How are they different from what he first thought, and why does that matter?

Example answer: At first, I think Oscar is not sure if he can trust Jennie and Bruno. As he learns more about them, he sees that they are brave, smart, and trying to survive too. This matters because Oscar needs help, and he has to look past his first opinions. It shows that people can surprise you when you get to know them.

At the end of the book, what do you think Oscar has learned from surviving the Great Chicago Fire? How might his future be different?

Example answer: I think Oscar learns that he is stronger than he believed. He also learns that family and friends can be found in unexpected places. After surviving the fire, he might be braver about facing changes in his life. I think he will remember what happened, but he will also have hope for a new beginning.

Chapter 1

Chapter 1 begins in a dangerous moment during the fire. What details help you picture the scene, and how do they make you feel about Oscar's situation?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 14

By this point, Chicago and the characters have changed a lot. What is one important change you notice, and why is it meaningful?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 13

What theme, or lesson, about courage appears in this chapter? Use an example from Oscar's actions to support your idea.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

After the story goes back to explain Oscar's life before the fire, what do you learn about Oscar and his mother? How do those facts help you understand Oscar's worries?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

Oscar has strong feelings about moving to Chicago. What does he expect the city to be like, and how do his expectations affect his choices?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 12

Oscar must decide whom to trust while trying to survive. What does he learn about trust in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 11

How does the author show that the fire is powerful and frightening? Describe two details that stand out to you.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

When Oscar first meets new people in Chicago, who seems trustworthy or untrustworthy to you? Use evidence from the chapter to explain your thinking.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

Choose an important word or phrase from this chapter that shows the mood of Chicago. What do you think it means, and why is it important?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 10

Which choice made by Oscar or another character in this chapter do you think is most important? Explain whether you agree with the choice.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

The fire begins to change everything. What causes the danger to grow, and how do the characters react?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

Oscar faces a problem that makes him feel scared or alone. How does he respond, and what does this show about his character?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

What prediction can you make about the trouble building in Chicago? What clues from this chapter support your prediction?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

In this chapter, Oscar learns more about Jennie and Bruno. How are they different from what he first thought, and why does that matter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
