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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.
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Make another at didtheyreallyread.com

Reading Journal

My thoughts, chapter by chapter

Reader:

Book Title:

Inside Out and Back Again

Author:

Thanhha Lai

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.

Why is the papaya tree so important to Hà, and what does it show about her hopes?

Example answer: I think the papaya tree is important to Hà because it is something she cares for and watches grow. It reminds her of home, beauty, and the life she knows in Saigon. When the papayas grow, I can tell Hà feels proud and hopeful. The tree shows that she wants good things to keep growing, even while the war is making everything uncertain.

Chapter 111

By the final chapter, what do you think back again means for Hà?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

How to Answer (continued)

How can a familiar food like nước mắm make someone feel close to home?

Example answer: I think nước mắm makes Hà feel close to home because it is a taste and smell she knows from Vietnam. When everything around her is new and strange, familiar food can bring back memories. I have foods in my own family that remind me of special places or people. For Hà, nước mắm is more than food because it connects her to who she is.

By the final chapter, what do you think back again means for Hà?

Example answer: To me, back again means Hà is starting to feel like herself again. She cannot go back to the exact life she had in Saigon, but she can find confidence, family love, and hope in a new place. I think she has learned that home can change and still matter. By the end, Hà is not completely fixed, but she is moving forward.

Chapter 1

How do the Tet traditions in the first chapter help you understand what Hà and her family value?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 110

What message about home is clearest at the end of the book?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 109

What change in Hà shows that she has become stronger?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

What might the phrase inside out and back again mean for Hà at the beginning of the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

What do we learn about Hà from the way she talks about her name and being the youngest child?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 108

How has Hà's idea of luck changed by the end of the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 107

How does Tet feel different for Hà in 1976 than it did in 1975?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

Why is the papaya tree so important to Hà, and what does it show about her hopes?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

How does TiTi leaving help Hà understand that life in Saigon is changing?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 106

Why is it both funny and serious that no one wants to be a lawyer?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 105

How do the brothers' dreams for the future show their different personalities?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

How does Father's being missing affect Mother and the children in different ways?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

What do Mother's choices on Mother's Day show about her character?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 104

What is one way Hà begins to start over in school or in her new community?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 103

What does eternal peace mean to Hà's family?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

What does Brother Khôi's care for the chick tell you about him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

How does the news about the war change the mood in Hà's home?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 102

How does the family show respect for Father's spirit and memory?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 101

Why might truly gone be both painful and helpful for the family?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 10

When does Hà feel smart, and why does that feeling matter to her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 11

What do the two new papayas make Hà feel, and why are they special?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 100

How does the word gone feel different from the word missing?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 99

Why are papaya seeds important to Hà even in Alabama?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 12

How does Hà try to imagine or remember her father even though she does not know him well?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 13

What does the TV news help the family understand about the danger around them?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 98

How does Mother help the family face the idea of no more waiting for Father?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 97

What sign gives the family a reason to hope or believe they can move forward?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 14

How are Hà's birthday wishes different from birthday wishes a child might usually make?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 15

What details from the trip downtown show that Saigon is no longer safe or normal?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 96

What fears does Hà have when she asks what if questions about the future?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 95

How does the mood change when the story moves into the final part, From Now On?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 16

How does the author create a feeling of twisting worry and confusion in this part of the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 17

How does school closing too soon affect Hà's sense of normal life?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 94

How can something be not the same but not bad?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 93

What does Hà mean when she realizes something is not the same?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 18

What promises do the family members make, and why are promises important during scary times?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 19

Why does the family think about going toward the sea, and what risks do they face?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 92

Why does the over-ripe papaya matter so much to Hà?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 91

How does the family's relationship with the cowboy change over time?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 20

If you were in Hà's family, what reasons would you see for leaving and for staying?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 21

Why is secrecy so important when the family is getting ready to leave?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 90

How does the war continue to shape the family even after they leave Vietnam?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 89

Why is Mother called the busy one, and how does her work affect the family?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 22

What does Mother's quiet decision show about her love and courage?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 23

How does the early monsoon weather add to the tense feeling in the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 88

How does Hà respond to the insult Du Du Face, and what are the results?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 87

What does the word now show about Hà's impatience or need for change?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 24

How does the president resigning affect Hà's family personally?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 25

Why do you think the family asks ancestors or spirits to watch over them?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 86

Why do misunderstandings about religion hurt Hà and her family?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 85

How does the cowboy respond to the family's problem, and what does that show about him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 26

What do the crisscrossed packs show about what the family can and cannot take?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 27

How does Hà's family decide what is most important to bring with them?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 84

How does Miss Washington support Hà in a way that others do not?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 83

What does Mother's response to the bullying show about her values?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 28

Why might Hà feel wet and crying as she leaves her home?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 29

What do the crowded, uncomfortable conditions tell you about being a refugee?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 82

How does being called Pancake Face affect Hà, and what does it show about bullying?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 81

Why is a school lesson about war and peace painful or confusing for Hà?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 30

How would having only one mat each change the way people act and feel?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 31

What fears and hopes might Hà have while she is in the dark on the ship?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 80

How does feeling smart again change Hà's confidence?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 79

What makes this day the most relieved day for Hà?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 32

Why is the chapter title Saigon Is Gone powerful for Hà and her family?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 33

How does floating at sea make Hà's future feel uncertain?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 78

Why is it important for Hà when someone finally knows or understands her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 77

How do the cowboy's gifts help the family, and what can gifts not fix?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 34

Why does time seem to move slowly for the people on the ship?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 35

What do the rations show about the passengers' needs and struggles?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 76

Why are English spelling rules so frustrating for Hà?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 75

What feelings can Hà not help having, even when she tries to be strong?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 36

How do routines help Hà and the others survive each day at sea?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 37

What memories of the life Hà once knew are hardest for her to leave behind?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 74

How does the church community make Hà's family feel both helped and out of place?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 73

Why does Hà learn that more is not always better when it comes to English words?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 38

Why does Brother Khôi keep a secret, and what does it reveal about his feelings?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 39

How does saying last respects help Brother Khôi let go?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 72

How does learning one new word a day help Hà take control of her new life?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 71

How do the neighbors show both kindness and unkindness to Hà's family?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 40

What danger does the broken engine create, and how do people respond?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 41

Why might the moon comfort Hà while she is far from home?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 70

Why does Hà want to hide, and what does she need from others?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 69

What sadness is hiding under Hà's anger or frustration?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 42

What can a small kind gesture, like a kiss, mean during a frightening time?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 43

How does the author use small details, such as golden fuzz, to show Hà's curiosity?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 68

How does Brother Vũ's fly kick help Hà feel braver?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 67

Why might Hà seem quiet on the outside while feeling many things inside?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 44

What is life like in the tent city, and how is it different from Hà's home?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 45

Why is waiting so difficult for Hà and the other refugees?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 66

What does Hà gain and lose when she decides to laugh back?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 65

Why does the outside world feel loud to Hà?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 46

How can a familiar food like nước mắm make someone feel close to home?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 47

What does Mother's amethyst ring represent, and why is it hard to give up?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 64

How do labels like black, white, yellow, and red make Hà think about identity?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 63

What does the idea of a rainbow suggest about the students in Hà's class?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 48

How does the family's future depend on the choices of strangers?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 49

How is the second tent city similar to or different from the first one?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 62

Why might laughter from others feel sadder than it seems?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 61

How does the outside world in Alabama feel to Hà at first?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 50

What do you predict life in Alabama will be like for Hà's family?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 51

Why does the family have to unpack and repack, and how might that feel?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 60

How do the rules Hà learns show who has power in her new life?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 59

Why is the difference between neigh and hee important to Hà at school?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 52

Why does Mother believe English is so important now?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 53

How does the first rule Hà learns show that she must adapt to a new culture?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 58

What does Hà do to pass time, and what does that tell you about her mood?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 57

Why can rules in a new country be confusing even when people are trying to help?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 54

What does Hà's reaction to American chicken show about trying unfamiliar foods?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 55

What does Hà notice from the too-high window, and what does it show about her feelings?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 56

How does the second rule protect Hà or make her life harder?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
