

How to print this booklet

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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.
3. Staple twice along the fold.



Make another at didtheyreallyread.com

Reading Journal

My thoughts, chapter by chapter

Reader:

Book Title:

Milkweed

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.

Food is very important in this book. What does food seem to mean in this chapter besides just something to eat?

Example answer: In this chapter, food seems to mean safety and survival. When Misha thinks about getting food, it shows how hard daily life is for him. Food also shows the difference between people who have power and people who are struggling. It made me realize that something ordinary can become very important during war.

How to Answer (continued)

How does Misha's confusion or innocence help him in this chapter, and how might it put him in danger?

Example answer: Misha's innocence helps him because he does not always get scared in the same way other people do. He is willing to try things that might help him survive. But it also puts him in danger because he may not understand how serious the Nazis' rules and threats are. I think this makes me worry about him more.

Which theme feels strongest right now: identity, belonging, hope, cruelty, or survival? Explain your choice.

Example answer: The strongest theme right now is survival. Misha and the people around him have to think about staying safe, finding food, and making it through each day. Even when there are moments of friendship, danger is always nearby. This theme shows how war changes what matters most.

Chapter 1

What did you learn about Misha so far, and what questions do you still have about who he is?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 45

After reading this chapter, what message do you think Jerry Spinelli wants readers to remember about people living through war?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

In this chapter, how does the setting of Warsaw affect what the characters can do or decide?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

Choose one word or phrase that helps show danger, fear, or confusion. What do you think it means, and how does it fit the scene?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 44

What unanswered question feels most important after this chapter, and why do you want to know the answer?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 43

What prediction can you make about Misha's future based only on what you know so far?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

So far, what does Misha seem to believe about himself, and how might that belief change the way he acts?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

What does Uri teach Misha about surviving, and why might that lesson matter in wartime Warsaw?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 42

How do memories, made-up stories, or stories about the past matter to Misha or another character?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 41

Which theme feels strongest right now: identity, belonging, hope, cruelty, or survival? Explain your choice.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

Which warning, rule, or piece of advice seems most important in this part of the story? Explain why.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

Names and labels matter in Milkweed. How do they affect the way Misha or another character is treated so far?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 40

What does courage look like in this chapter?
Give an example that is not just about fighting.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 39

In what ways does Warsaw during the Nazi occupation shape the main conflict in this part of the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

Describe a moment from this chapter that made you feel worried, sad, angry, or hopeful. What caused that feeling?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

What does this chapter show about how war changes childhood for Misha, Janina, or another young character?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 38

If you could warn one character about something after this chapter, who would you warn and what would you say?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 37

How does Misha's innocent way of telling the story make the events feel more powerful or sad?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 10

What do Misha's choices in this chapter show about both his strengths and his weaknesses?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 11

How are the Nazis, sometimes called Jackboots by Misha, shown through what characters see, hear, or experience?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 36

What lesson about survival does this chapter seem to teach, and why might that lesson be hard to follow?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 35

How has Misha changed from the beginning of the book to this point? Use one example.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 12

What can you infer about Uri's feelings, even if he does not explain them directly?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 13

If Janina appears in this part, how does she respond to what is happening? If not, choose another child and explain their response.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 34

Where do you see hope in this chapter, even if the events are frightening or sad?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 33

How does Janina's behavior compare with Misha's so far? Think about their choices, fears, or hopes.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 14

Food is very important in this book. What does food seem to mean in this chapter besides just something to eat?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 15

Make a prediction about one relationship in the story, such as Misha and Uri or Misha and Janina. What evidence supports your prediction?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 32

Pick a powerful sentence, image, or scene from the chapter. Why did it stay in your mind?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 31

What does friendship cost or risk for a character in this part of Milkweed?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 16

How does Misha's confusion or innocence help him in this chapter, and how might it put him in danger?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 17

What small act of kindness or cruelty stood out to you in this chapter? Why was it important?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 30

How does fear change the way characters speak, move, or treat one another in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 29

Which decision in this chapter seems to have the biggest effect on the story? Explain your choice.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 18

If this chapter shows the Warsaw ghetto or another crowded place, how does that place change what people need, fear, or hope for?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 19

Which character seems bravest in this part of the book? Use details from the chapter to explain your thinking.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 28

Describe a time in this chapter when Misha misunderstands something or sees it differently from others. What does that show about him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 27

What does this chapter teach about prejudice, unfair treatment, or the way people are judged?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 20

Jerry Spinelli often uses short scenes and simple language. How did the writing style affect the mood or speed of this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 21

What does Misha want most right now, and what does that tell you about him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 26

How do rumors, stories, or beliefs influence what a character does in this part of the book?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 25

If you could ask Misha one question after reading this chapter, what would it be and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 22

Compare Misha's view of events with the view of an older character. How are their understandings different?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 23

Choose an object, place, or action from this chapter that seems important. What larger idea might it represent?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 24

How does the idea of family, whether real or chosen, appear in this chapter or in the story so far?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
