

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:

Monster

Author:

Walter Dean Myers

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.

Chapter 1: Steve describes jail and begins writing his story like a movie. What do these details help you understand about how he is feeling?

Example answer: I think Steve feels scared and alone in jail. The way he writes it like a movie makes it seem like he is trying to step outside of his own life because it is too hard to face. I can tell he is confused and worried about what will happen to him. His writing helps me understand that he is still a kid dealing with something very serious.

Chapter 12

Chapter 12: How does the ending make you think about innocence, guilt, and who Steve really is? Explain your reaction in a few sentences.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 11

Chapter 11: Near the end of the trial, Steve has to think about how other people see him. What lesson might he be learning about identity and reputation?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

How to Answer (continued)

Chapter 5: The word monster is very important in this book. What does this word mean to Steve, and how does it affect the way he sees himself?

Example answer: To me, the word monster makes Steve feel like people already think he is a bad person. It hurts him because he does not want to be seen only as someone accused of a crime. I think he starts wondering if other people can still see the real him. The word is powerful because it changes how Steve thinks about himself.

Chapter 12: How does the ending make you think about innocence, guilt, and who Steve really is? Explain your reaction in a few sentences.

Example answer: I felt that the ending was not completely simple or happy. It made me think that being found not guilty does not mean Steve's life goes back to normal right away. I think Steve is still trying to understand who he is and how others see him. My reaction is that the book wants readers to keep thinking instead of giving an easy answer.

Chapter 1

Chapter 1: Steve describes jail and begins writing his story like a movie. What do these details help you understand about how he is feeling?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 10

Chapter 10: Do you think writing his story as a movie helps Steve deal with fear? Why or why not?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

Chapter 9: What does this part of the book suggest about choices and consequences? Explain using an event from the chapter.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

Chapter 2: Why do you think Walter Dean Myers uses both a screenplay and journal entries to tell Steve's story? How does this style change the way you read the book?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

Chapter 3: The lawyers tell different stories about Steve and the crime. What details make it hard for the reader to know what really happened?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

Chapter 8: How are Steve Harmon and James King similar or different? What do their words and actions show about their characters?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

Chapter 7: Based on what has happened so far in the trial, what do you predict Steve will need to do if he wants the jury to understand him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

Chapter 4: When Steve remembers his family, school, or life before jail, what kind of person do you think he is? Use details from the chapter to explain.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

Chapter 5: The word monster is very important in this book. What does this word mean to Steve, and how does it affect the way he sees himself?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

Chapter 6: Several witnesses share what they saw or heard. How can a reader decide which witnesses seem honest or trustworthy?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
