

How to print this booklet

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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:

One Big Open Sky

Author:

Lesa Cline-Ransome

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.

What new feeling did Lettie show in this chapter, and what clues helped you notice it?

Example answer: I noticed Lettie showing more worry than she had before. The clues were in the way she paid attention to what was around her and thought about what might happen next. I think she is learning that the journey is not only exciting, but also difficult. Her feelings make her seem real because a person can feel brave and scared at the same time.

Chapter 60

After reading this chapter, what are you still wondering about the characters' future?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 59

What do you think the author wants readers to care about most in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

How to Answer (continued)

How does the author use sensory details, such as sounds, sights, or feelings, to put you inside the journey?

Example answer: The author uses details that make me picture the travelers under the big sky. I can imagine the dust, the open land, and the tired feeling of moving for a long time. These details help me understand that the journey is physical, not just something happening in the characters' minds. I felt closer to the characters because I could almost see and feel what they were going through.

Which character do you understand better after this chapter, and what changed your thinking?

Example answer: I understand Sylvia better after this chapter. At first, I might think she is only being serious or strict, but now I see that she is carrying many worries for her family. She wants a better future, but she also knows how hard the road can be. This changed my thinking because I can see love behind some of her choices.

Chapter 1

What did this chapter help you understand about Lettie, Sylvia, or Philomena so far?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 58

How did this chapter connect to an earlier part of Lettie, Sylvia, or Philomena's journey?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 57

Which sentence or image would you choose as the heart of this chapter, and what does it reveal?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

Which moment in this chapter seemed most important to the family's journey from Mississippi toward a new home, and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

How does the setting in this chapter—the road, the weather, or the wide-open land—affect the mood?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 56

What does this chapter make you think about freedom: having it, seeking it, or protecting it?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 55

How does trust matter in this part of the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

What does one character want most in this chapter, and what makes that want difficult to reach?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

Which detail helped you picture life for Black families after Reconstruction, and what did it show?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 54

What emotion changed from the beginning to the end of this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 53

Which detail made the historical setting feel real to you, and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

How did the verse form make this chapter feel different from a regular prose chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

What new feeling did Lettie show in this chapter, and what clues helped you notice it?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 52

What does the chapter show about making a new beginning?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 51

How might this chapter be different if it were told by another narrator?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

How does Sylvia's point of view, if it appears in or connects to this chapter, add to your understanding of the family?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

What question would you ask Philomena about her choices or hopes at this point in the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 50

What responsibility does a character carry in this chapter, and is it fair?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 49

How does the chapter balance hardship with beauty?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 10

Which word or phrase in this chapter stood out to you, and what do you think it means in context?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 11

How did a character show courage in a quiet or ordinary way in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 48

What surprised you in this chapter, and how did it change what you expected?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 47

What is one symbol or repeated idea you noticed, such as sky, road, land, or voice, and what might it mean?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 12

What conflict or problem is growing so far, and how might it affect the travelers next?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 13

How are dreams of land, freedom, or safety connected in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 46

How does silence, listening, or something unsaid matter in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 45

Which character do you understand better after this chapter, and what changed your thinking?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 14

What did you learn about the risks of traveling west during this time period?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 15

Which character seemed most unsure in this chapter, and what might be causing that uncertainty?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 44

What is one way racism or prejudice affects the characters' choices or feelings in this part of the book?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 43

How does the chapter show the importance of community among the travelers?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 16

How does the title One Big Open Sky connect to what you read in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 17

What choice did a character make or think about, and what does it reveal about them?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 42

What does a character remember in this chapter or so far, and why might that memory matter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 41

How does the author's word choice create a feeling of movement, waiting, or worry?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 18

What is one thing the family or group has lost, given up, or left behind so far?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 19

What is one thing they have gained or begun to hope for by this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 40

Which part of the chapter made you slow down and think, and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 39

What lesson about perseverance could a reader take from this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 20

How do family relationships shape the decisions being made in this part of the book?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 21

What image from this chapter would you draw, and what would you include to show its importance?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 38

How does hope help the characters keep moving, even when things are uncertain?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 37

What is one hard truth a character has to face in this part of the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 22

How does the author use sensory details, such as sounds, sights, or feelings, to put you inside the journey?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 23

What did this chapter suggest about fairness or unfairness in the world the characters live in?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 36

How does the open sky or open land feel in this chapter: freeing, lonely, scary, exciting, or something else?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 35

Which relationship seems to be changing, and what evidence from this chapter shows the change?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 24

If you could give advice to Lettie right now, what would you tell her and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 25

How does education, reading, or learning matter to a character in this chapter or so far?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 34

What does this chapter make you wonder about Nebraska or the life the travelers hope to find there?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 33

How are adults and children experiencing the journey differently so far?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 26

What do you predict will be the next big challenge on the road, and what evidence supports your prediction?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 27

Which line or moment felt hopeful, even if the chapter also had hard parts?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 32

What small action in this chapter might have a larger meaning for the character who does it?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 31

How does the author help you understand the time period without stopping the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 28

How does fear appear in this chapter, and how does a character respond to it?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 29

What does this chapter show about what "home" can mean?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 30

Which character's voice felt strongest to you in this chapter, and what made it sound unique?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
