

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.



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Reading Journal

My thoughts, chapter by chapter

Reader:

Book Title:

Rocket Boys

Author:

Homer H. Hickam

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.

How does life in Coalwood, West Virginia, shape what happens in the chapter you just read? Use a detail about the town or its people.

Example answer: I think Coalwood shapes Sonny's story because the coal mine is such an important part of the town. His father works at the mine, so mining is also part of Sonny's family life. This helps me understand why Sonny's interest in rockets stands out. He is imagining a future that is different from the work around him.

How to Answer (continued)

Do you think a young person in Coalwood should have to choose the same kind of work as their family? Use your reading so far to explain your opinion.

Example answer: I do not think Sonny should have to choose the same work as his father. Mining matters to Coalwood, and I can respect the people who do that hard work. Still, Sonny's interest in rockets deserves a chance. I think respecting your family can include working hard at a different dream.

In what way can you connect Sonny's hopes to a goal of your own? Explain one similarity and one difference.

Example answer: I connect Sonny's hopes to my goal of learning to play the guitar. We both want to learn something that takes practice instead of getting it right immediately. One difference is that Sonny wants to build rockets, while I want to make music. His story reminds me that being interested is only the beginning; I also need to keep working.

Chapter 1

What is the most important thing you learned about Sonny Hickam in your latest chapter? Explain how that detail helps you understand his story.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 26

Looking back at your latest chapter, what would be a fitting new title for it? Explain how your title connects to Sonny's story.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 25

What message about growing up do you notice in the chapters you have read? Support your idea with a choice, conversation, or challenge from the book.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

How does life in Coalwood, West Virginia, shape what happens in the chapter you just read? Use a detail about the town or its people.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

Based on what you have read, what challenge might Sonny face next as he follows his interests? Explain the clue that supports your prediction.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 24

Which part of your latest chapter would you most want to discuss with another reader? Explain what makes it surprising, puzzling, or interesting.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 23

What does Sonny seem to believe about himself at this point? Explain whether his actions match that belief.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

Which choice in your latest chapter tells you something about Sonny's character? Explain what you think the choice shows.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

What does your reading so far suggest about the importance of teamwork in Rocket Boys? Use a moment you have read about as evidence.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 22

How does your reading so far show that learning can happen outside a classroom? Describe an example and explain what someone learns.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 21

What kind of support seems most useful to Sonny at this point: encouragement, information, supplies, or something else? Explain your choice.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

Choose an unfamiliar word from your latest chapter, perhaps one connected to mining or science. What do you think it means, and which nearby words helped you?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

In what way can you connect Sonny's hopes to a goal of your own? Explain one similarity and one difference.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 20

Which event or conversation in your latest chapter seems likely to matter again? Predict how it might become important without looking ahead.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 19

If you could offer advice to someone in your latest chapter, whom would you choose? Explain your advice using what you know about that person's situation.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

What have you learned so far about the coal mine's place in Coalwood? Explain why it matters to the people in the story.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

Whose point of view would help you better understand your latest chapter: Sonny's father, his mother, or someone else? Explain what you would want to learn.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 18

What does your latest chapter add to your understanding of the risks people take in Rocket Boys? Explain whether the risk you noticed seems worth taking.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 17

How are Sonny and another person alike or different in what they want? Use details from the chapters you have read.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 10

When someone in your latest chapter faces a problem, how do they respond? Explain whether their response seems helpful.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 11

What question would you ask Sonny about something he has done or said in your reading so far? Explain why you want to know his answer.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 16

Find a word or phrase that helps show a person's feelings in your latest chapter. What feeling does it suggest, and why is it more helpful than simply naming the feeling?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 15

Do you think a young person in Coalwood should have to choose the same kind of work as their family? Use your reading so far to explain your opinion.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 12

How might Sonny's relationship with his father develop, based only on what you have read? Point to a detail that supports your idea.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 13

Which detail in your latest chapter helps you picture Coalwood or another place in the book? Explain the picture it creates in your mind.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 14

Where do you notice curiosity in your latest chapter? Describe what sparks someone's interest and what they do about it.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
