

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:

Sideways Stories from Wayside School

Author:

Louis Sachar

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.

Todd tries to behave, but he keeps getting sent home early. What makes his situation unfair, and how does he react to it?

Example answer: I think Todd's situation is unfair because he is trying to be good, but he still gets blamed and sent home early. It seems like once the teacher expects him to get in trouble, it is hard for him to prove he is behaving. I would feel frustrated if people did not notice my effort. Todd's chapter shows that being judged too quickly can hurt someone.

How to Answer (continued)

The chapter about Miss Zarves is very unusual. How does the missing nineteenth story make the joke work, and why might the author include a chapter like this?

Example answer: The joke works because the school has no nineteenth story, so Miss Zarves should not exist either. The chapter feels like it is about something that is not really there, which matches the silly logic of Wayside School. I think Louis Sachar includes it to surprise the reader and make us laugh. It also reminds me that this book does not follow normal school rules.

The three Erics each have the same first name but different personalities. How do names and nicknames cause confusion or unfairness in this chapter?

Example answer: The three Erics are confusing because they share a name, but they are not the same person at all. Their nicknames can feel unfair when the name does not match who they really are. This made me think that people should not be judged only by a label. A name can be funny in the story, but it can also affect how others see you.

Chapter 1

How does Mrs. Gorf use her power over the students, and why do the children finally decide they must stop her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 30

Louis, the yard teacher, is important to the students. How does the final chapter show his connection to the class and bring the book to a satisfying end?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 29

Stephen stands out from the rest of the class in his chapter. How do the reactions of other people make his situation funnier or more embarrassing?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

On Mrs. Jewls's first day in the class on the thirtieth floor, what does she misunderstand about the students, and how does that make the chapter funny?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

What does Mrs. Jewls discover about Joe's counting, and how is his way of thinking different from what she expects?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 28

Nancy is upset because people tease him about his name. How does this chapter make you think about names, identity, and treating people with respect?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 27

Joy takes lunches that do not belong to her.
What does her behavior show about selfishness,
and how do the others respond?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

Why is Sharie's sleeping in class such a
problem, and what does the chapter show about
the unusual rules of Wayside School?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

Todd tries to behave, but he keeps getting sent home early. What makes his situation unfair, and how does he react to it?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 26

Terrence often causes trouble on the playground. How do his choices affect the other children, and what consequence does he face?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 25

Jenny is late to school because of odd delays and surprises. Which part of her journey seems the strangest, and how does it fit the humor of Wayside School?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

Bebe can draw very quickly. What lesson does Mrs. Jewls try to teach her about doing work well instead of just doing a lot of it?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

Calvin is asked to take a note to Miss Zarves. How does this errand become confusing, and what does it show about the strange building?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 24

Dameon spends a lot of time running between Mrs. Jewls and Louis. How does his helpfulness become both important and frustrating?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 23

Allison ends up in a classroom where she does not seem to belong. How does she figure out something is wrong, and what does she do about it?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

Myron becomes class president. What does he learn about leadership and responsibility after he gets the job?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

Maurecia loves ice cream, but the special ice cream in this chapter causes a surprise. What does the surprise reveal about Maurecia and Todd?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 22

The three Erics each have the same first name but different personalities. How do names and nicknames cause confusion or unfairness in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 21

Ron struggles during a playground game. How do his classmates respond, and what does his experience show about encouragement?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 10

Paul keeps wanting to pull Leslie's pigtails. Why is it hard for him to stop, and what helps him learn his lesson?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 11

Dana is bothered by mosquito bites during class.
How does she try to deal with the problem, and
what makes the situation silly?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 20

Kathy is often mean and unhappy with others.
How do her thoughts and actions affect her
friendships in the class?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 19

The chapter about Miss Zarves is very unusual. How does the missing nineteenth story make the joke work, and why might the author include a chapter like this?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 12

Jason has a sticky problem with gum. What different ways do people try to help him, and which part seems the most ridiculous?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 13

Rondi has strong feelings about her missing front teeth. How do other people's reactions to her smile affect the way she feels?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 18

Leslie has an unusual problem involving her toes. How does the chapter change the way she thinks about something she usually takes for granted?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 17

John reads differently from everyone else. How does Mrs. Jewls help him, and what does this show about accepting unusual learners?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 14

Sammy seems like a new student at first. What clues make the class suspicious, and how does the truth about Sammy change the mood of the chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 15

Deedee wants to play with a certain ball at recess. How does she try to get what she wants, and what does the chapter suggest about fairness?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 16

D.J. is cheerful for no clear reason. How do the other characters respond to his happiness, and what do you think the chapter says about joy?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
