

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:

Small steps

Author:

Louis Sachar

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 13: Why is the concert important to Ginny, and what does Armpit do to make the experience special for her?

Example answer: I think the concert is important to Ginny because she loves Kaira's music and it gives her something exciting to look forward to. Armpit helps make it special by taking her seriously and treating her like a real friend, not like a little kid. He wants her to have a happy night, so he pays attention to what she needs. This shows that he is kind and dependable.

How to Answer (continued)

Chapter 20: Do you think Armpit should keep trusting X-Ray? Why or why not?

Example answer: I do not think Armpit should fully trust X-Ray anymore. X-Ray is his friend, but he often thinks about making money before thinking about what is safe or right. Armpit is trying to stay out of trouble, so he needs to be careful about who he listens to. He can still care about X-Ray without following every plan X-Ray makes.

Chapter 40: How has Armpit changed from the beginning of the book to now?

Example answer: At the beginning of the book, Armpit is trying hard to start over, but he is not always sure he can do it. By this point, he has faced many problems and still keeps trying to make better choices. He has learned that one bad decision can lead to bigger trouble, but he has also shown courage and loyalty. I think he is more confident because he knows he can take small steps toward a better life.

Chapter 1

Chapter 1: What are the small steps Armpit is trying to follow as he starts over, and why do you think each one matters?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 42

Chapter 42: What is the main message of Small Steps, and how does the ending help show that message?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 41

Chapter 41: What lesson do you think Kaira learns from everything that has happened?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

Chapter 2: How does Armpit’s friendship with Ginny show a different side of him than other people might expect?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

Chapter 3: X-Ray brings Armpit an idea for making money. What makes the idea tempting, and what makes it risky?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 40

Chapter 40: How has Armpit changed from the beginning of the book to now?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 39

Chapter 39: What does justice mean in this chapter, and do you think the events are fair?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

Chapter 4: What do you learn about Armpit’s goals in this chapter, and how do his choices connect to those goals?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

Chapter 5: How does the author show that Armpit is trying to be responsible, even when other people doubt him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 38

Chapter 38: How do the characters work to uncover the truth, and what obstacles stand in their way?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 37

Chapter 37: What important information is revealed in this chapter, and how does it change what you think about earlier events?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

Chapter 6: What do Kaira DeLeon's life and problems show about being famous?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

Chapter 7: How does Ginny help Armpit see himself in a more positive way?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 36

Chapter 36: How does Ginny show strength, even when things are frightening or confusing?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 35

Chapter 35: What do you think Armpit is most afraid of losing at this point in the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

Chapter 8: What does the word trust mean in this chapter, and which character seems to earn or lose trust?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

Chapter 9: What prediction can you make about X-Ray’s ticket plan, and what clues from the story support your thinking?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 34

Chapter 34: How does the meaning of the word consequence fit what happens in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 33

Chapter 33: What theme about friendship can you find in this chapter? Use details to explain your thinking.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 10

Chapter 10: How does Armpit feel about taking risks, and what does this show about how he has changed since Camp Green Lake?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 11

Chapter 11: What problems begin to grow because of the ticket plan, and how do the characters react to those problems?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 32

Chapter 32: How do Armpit’s past mistakes affect how other people judge him now?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 31

Chapter 31: What is one example of courage in this chapter, and why does it matter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 12

Chapter 12: How does money affect the choices Armpit and X-Ray make in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 13

Chapter 13: Why is the concert important to Ginny, and what does Armpit do to make the experience special for her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 30

Chapter 30: How does the author create suspense as the problems around Kaira become more serious?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 29

Chapter 29: What choices does Kaira have to make, and why are they difficult for her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 14

Chapter 14: How does the author build excitement or worry during the concert scenes?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 15

Chapter 15: When trouble happens with the tickets, how does Armpit respond, and what does his response tell you about him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 28

Chapter 28: How does Ginny’s point of view help you understand the events in a new way?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 27

Chapter 27: What does Armpit learn about honesty in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 16

Chapter 16: How are Ginny’s feelings important in this chapter, and how do other characters treat her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 17

Chapter 17: What do Kaira’s actions in this chapter reveal about her character?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 26

Chapter 26: Which character seems to have the most power in this chapter, and how does that power affect others?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 25

Chapter 25: What prediction can you make about Armpit and Kaira’s relationship, and what makes you think that?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 18

Chapter 18: How does meeting Kaira change Armpit’s life, even if only for a short time?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 19

Chapter 19: What is one misunderstanding in this chapter, and how does it make the situation harder for Armpit?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 24

Chapter 24: How does the setting of a hotel or concert tour make the story feel different from Armpit’s everyday life?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 23

Chapter 23: What clues show that Kaira may feel lonely even though she is surrounded by people?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 20

Chapter 20: Do you think Armpit should keep trusting X-Ray? Why or why not?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 21

Chapter 21: How does Armpit try to balance doing the right thing with helping his friend?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 22

Chapter 22: What does this chapter suggest about second chances and how hard they can be?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
