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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.
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Make another at didtheyreallyread.com

Reading Journal

My thoughts, chapter by chapter

Reader:

Book Title:

Starfish

Author:

Lisa Fipps

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 12: If you were Ellie's classmate, what could you do to make school feel kinder for her?

Example answer: If I were Ellie's classmate, I would sit with her and talk to her like she belongs. I would not laugh at mean jokes, even if other kids did. I could also tell a teacher if someone was bullying her. Small choices like that could help Ellie feel less alone at school.

Chapter 112

Chapter 112: After finishing the book, what do you think the title Starfish means for Ellie's journey?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 111

Chapter 111: What lesson from Ellie's story could help readers treat others with more kindness?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

How to Answer (continued)

Chapter 47: Ellie begins getting help from an adult outside her family. Why might talking to this person matter?

Example answer: I think talking to an adult like Doc matters because Ellie needs someone who listens without judging her. At home, she often feels blamed or misunderstood. With Doc, she can say her real feelings and learn that the bullying is not her fault. That kind of support can help her become braver.

Chapter 98: Which theme feels most important near the end of the book: friendship, courage, body acceptance, or family? Explain your thinking.

Example answer: Near the end, I think body acceptance is the most important theme. Ellie is learning that her body is not something to be ashamed of. Friendship and courage help her get there, but the biggest change is how she talks to herself. She starts to believe she deserves respect just as she is.

Chapter 1

Chapter 1: Ellie describes floating like a starfish in the pool. What does the pool help her feel, and why is that important?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 110

Chapter 110: What moment near the end best shows Ellie's courage?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 109

Chapter 109: How does Ellie's final understanding of the Fat Girl Rules show her growth?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

Chapter 2: What do you learn about how Ellie sees herself when she thinks about her body?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

Chapter 3: Ellie has rules she believes she must follow because of her size. How do these rules affect her choices?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 108

Chapter 108: What unfinished problem still feels real, and why might the author leave it that way?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 107

Chapter 107: How does Ellie's relationship with herself change by this point in the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

Chapter 4: How does Ellie's mom treat her in this chapter, and how does it seem to make Ellie feel?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

Chapter 5: What does Ellie's family life show you about the challenges she faces at home?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 106

Chapter 106: What do you think Ellie would tell her younger self?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 105

Chapter 105: How does Ellie show resilience after another hard moment?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

Chapter 6: How is Ellie's dad different from some of the other people in her life?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

Chapter 7: Ellie thinks about losing or missing a friend. How does that change her day-to-day life?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 104

Chapter 104: What message does this chapter send about judging people by their size?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 103

Chapter 103: How do the people around Ellie show who truly accepts her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

Chapter 8: What details show that Ellie feels lonely or left out?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

Chapter 9: Catalina is introduced as someone new. What first impression do you get of her, and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 102

Chapter 102: What is one way Ellie claims joy for herself?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 101

Chapter 101: How does the starfish image feel different now than it did at the beginning?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 10

Chapter 10: How does Ellie react when someone treats her with kindness instead of judgment?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 11

Chapter 11: What problem at school makes Ellie feel unsafe or embarrassed?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 100

Chapter 100: What does Ellie's growth teach you about speaking up against unfair treatment?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 99

Chapter 99: How does Ellie handle a moment that would have made her hide before?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 12

Chapter 12: If you were Ellie's classmate, what could you do to make school feel kinder for her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 13

Chapter 13: What words or actions hurt Ellie in this chapter, and why do they matter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 98

Chapter 98: Which theme feels most important near the end of the book: friendship, courage, body acceptance, or family? Explain your thinking.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 97

Chapter 97: How does Ellie's self-talk become kinder or more truthful?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 14

Chapter 14: What does Ellie wish other people understood about her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 15

Chapter 15: How does the author use strong images or comparisons to show Ellie's feelings?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 96

Chapter 96: What makes a safe person safe in Ellie's life?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 95

Chapter 95: How does Catalina support Ellie without trying to fix everything for her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 16

Chapter 16: What prediction can you make about Ellie and Catalina's friendship?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 17

Chapter 17: How does Ellie act when she is trying to protect herself from being hurt?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 94

Chapter 94: What does Ellie learn about what she can and cannot control?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 93

Chapter 93: How does Ellie keep herself strong when others do not change right away?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 18

Chapter 18: What do you think Ellie needs most from her family right now?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 19

Chapter 19: What does this chapter show about the power of names, nicknames, or labels?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 92

Chapter 92: What does this chapter show about apologies, forgiveness, or change?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 91

Chapter 91: How does Ellie's family respond when she is honest about her pain?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 20

Chapter 20: How does Ellie's inner voice affect the way she sees events around her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 21

Chapter 21: What changes when Ellie spends time with someone who accepts her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 90

Chapter 90: What is the hardest truth Ellie has to say or hear in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 89

Chapter 89: How does Doc help Ellie prepare for a difficult conversation?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 22

Chapter 22: How do small acts of friendship make a big difference in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 23

Chapter 23: What does Ellie learn about Catalina's family or culture, and how does it affect their friendship?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 88

Chapter 88: What does Ellie realize about loving someone who also hurts her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 87

Chapter 87: How does Ellie's mom react to Ellie's changes, and what does that reveal?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 24

Chapter 24: What theme is beginning to grow in the story, and what evidence supports it?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 25

Chapter 25: What does Ellie's reaction to teasing tell you about her past experiences?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 86

Chapter 86: What do you think will happen if Ellie keeps speaking up?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 85

Chapter 85: How does Ellie show that she is more than other people's opinions of her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 26

Chapter 26: Which character seems most trustworthy to Ellie so far, and what makes you think that?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 27

Chapter 27: How does Ellie handle being angry, sad, or ashamed in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 84

Chapter 84: What lesson about friendship stands out in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 83

Chapter 83: How does Ellie respond differently now than she might have earlier in the book?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 28

Chapter 28: What is one question you would ask Ellie if you could talk to her after this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 29

Chapter 29: How does the setting of the pool change Ellie's mood?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 82

Chapter 82: What new problem tests Ellie's confidence?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 81

Chapter 81: How does the pool or swimming connect to Ellie's growing freedom?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 30

Chapter 30: What might the starfish image mean besides just a way to float?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 31

Chapter 31: How does Ellie's mom's focus on food or weight affect Ellie's confidence?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 80

Chapter 80: What does it mean for Ellie to take up space?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 79

Chapter 79: How does Ellie's view of her body begin to shift?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 32

Chapter 32: What do you think the author wants readers to notice about bullying?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 33

Chapter 33: How does Ellie show bravery, even if she does not feel brave?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 78

Chapter 78: What is one moment when you felt proud of Ellie, and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 77

Chapter 77: How does the author make a painful moment understandable for young readers?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 34

Chapter 34: What does Ellie's friendship with Catalina give her that she has been missing?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 35

Chapter 35: What new conflict appears, and how might it become important later?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 76

Chapter 76: What does this chapter show about courage in everyday life?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 75

Chapter 75: How does Ellie use words to defend herself or explain her truth?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 36

Chapter 36: What vocabulary word or phrase in this chapter feels powerful, and what do you think it means?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 37

Chapter 37: How does Ellie respond to being judged by her appearance?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 74

Chapter 74: What does Ellie want people to know about who she is inside?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 73

Chapter 73: How do secrets or silence make problems worse in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 38

Chapter 38: What prediction do you have about whether Ellie will speak up for herself?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 39

Chapter 39: How do family members help or hurt Ellie in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 72

Chapter 72: What does Ellie learn from comparing old friendships with new friendships?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 71

Chapter 71: How does a letter, message, or conversation affect Ellie's feelings?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 40

Chapter 40: What does this chapter teach about the difference between joking and hurting someone?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 41

Chapter 41: How does Ellie's relationship with food feel complicated?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 70

Chapter 70: What challenge still feels hard for Ellie, even as she grows stronger?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 69

Chapter 69: How does Ellie's confidence affect the way she makes choices?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 42

Chapter 42: What do you notice about the way Ellie describes her emotions?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 43

Chapter 43: How does the author help you understand Ellie's point of view?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 68

Chapter 68: What small victory does Ellie have, and why is it important?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 67

Chapter 67: How does Ellie's understanding of the Fat Girl Rules begin to change?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 44

Chapter 44: What choice does Ellie make, and what does it show about her character?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 45

Chapter 45: How does Catalina challenge Ellie to see herself differently?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 66

Chapter 66: What does the word boundary mean in Ellie's life, based on this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 65

Chapter 65: How does Ellie react when someone crosses a boundary?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 46

Chapter 46: What do you think makes a good friend, based on this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 47

Chapter 47: Ellie begins getting help from an adult outside her family. Why might talking to this person matter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 64

Chapter 64: What does the story suggest about accepting people as they are?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 63

Chapter 63: How do Ellie and Catalina build trust with each other?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 48

Chapter 48: What is one way Doc helps Ellie think about herself or her problems?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 49

Chapter 49: How is therapy different from Ellie's usual conversations at home or school?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 62

Chapter 62: What makes Ellie feel seen or understood in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 61

Chapter 61: How does Ellie's dad support her, and what limits does his support have?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 50

Chapter 50: What does Ellie learn about feelings that have been kept inside for a long time?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 51

Chapter 51: How does Ellie's voice start to sound different as she gains support?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 60

Chapter 60: What does Ellie need from her mom that she is not getting?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 59

Chapter 59: What does this chapter reveal about the long-lasting effects of hurtful words?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 52

Chapter 52: What advice from Doc or another adult seems useful, and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 53

Chapter 53: What does Ellie discover about blame and responsibility?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 58

Chapter 58: How do Ellie's memories help explain why she feels the way she does?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 57

Chapter 57: What prediction can you make about Ellie's relationship with her mom?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 54

Chapter 54: How does Ellie practice standing up for herself in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 55

Chapter 55: What is a moment when Ellie shows honesty with herself?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 56

Chapter 56: How does the author show that healing can take time?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
