

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:

Stepping on the cracks

Author:

Mary Downing Hahn

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 3: The characters talk a lot about being brave or being a coward. What do those words seem to mean to Margaret in this chapter?

Example answer: I think Margaret believes being brave means fighting in the war and not being afraid. To her, a coward is someone who runs away or will not do what everyone expects. She is still seeing things in a simple way because she has not learned everyone's reasons yet. Later, I think she will have to think harder about what real courage means.

Chapter 15

Chapter 15: By the end of the book, what has Margaret learned about bravery, kindness, and judging other people?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

How to Answer (continued)

Chapter 8: If you were Margaret, would you tell an adult about what she and Elizabeth have discovered? Why or why not?

Example answer: If I were Margaret, I would want to tell an adult because the secret is too big for kids to handle alone. I would be scared that someone could get hurt or that we could make the problem worse. At the same time, I understand why Margaret might stay quiet if she feels sorry for Gordy and Stuart. I think I would try to find a kind adult I could trust.

Chapter 15: By the end of the book, what has Margaret learned about bravery, kindness, and judging other people?

Example answer: By the end of the book, I think Margaret learns that bravery is not only about soldiers and battles. Sometimes bravery means helping someone even when it is scary or unpopular. She also learns that people like Gordy may be acting mean because they are hurt or afraid. I think she becomes more understanding and less quick to judge.

Chapter 1

Chapter 1: How does the first chapter show what life is like for Margaret and her family during World War II? Use details from the chapter in your answer.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 14

Chapter 14: What risks do Margaret and the others take near the end of the story, and why are they willing to take them?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 13

Chapter 13: How does the news from the war affect the characters' feelings and choices in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

Chapter 2: What do Margaret and Elizabeth think about Gordy at this point in the story, and what has he done to make them feel that way?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

Chapter 3: The characters talk a lot about being brave or being a coward. What do those words seem to mean to Margaret in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 12

Chapter 12: What theme, or big lesson, is shown when the children have to decide whether to help someone who has done something wrong?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 11

Chapter 11: Margaret and Elizabeth do not always agree about what to do. How does their disagreement affect their friendship?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

Chapter 4: Do you think Margaret and Elizabeth make good choices when they deal with Gordy in this chapter? Explain your opinion with reasons.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

Chapter 5: What do you learn about Gordy's home life, and how does it help you understand him better?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 10

Chapter 10: In this chapter, how does Margaret's view of Gordy begin to change? What causes that change?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

Chapter 9: How does Stuart's situation make the idea of courage more complicated than Margaret first thought?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

Chapter 6: Margaret notices that something unusual may be going on. What clues does the author give, and what do you predict they might mean?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

Chapter 7: How does Margaret react when she learns more about Gordy's secret? What does her reaction show about her character?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

Chapter 8: If you were Margaret, would you tell an adult about what she and Elizabeth have discovered? Why or why not?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
