

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:

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

Author:

Barbara Robinson

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.

In Chapter 1, how does the narrator describe the Herdman children? What details help you understand why people in town are afraid of them?

Example answer: I think the narrator describes the Herdmans as wild, mean, and always causing trouble. The details about them bullying other kids, smoking, and even starting fires show that they do not follow rules. People are afraid of them because they never know what the Herdmans will do next. The author makes them seem almost unbelievable, but also very interesting.

Chapter 7

In Chapter 7, why do you think the narrator calls this the best Christmas pageant ever? What changed about the pageant or about the way people saw the Herdmans?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

How to Answer (continued)

In Chapter 5, Mrs. Bradley keeps trying to make the pageant work even when many people think it will be a disaster. What does her behavior show about patience, kindness, or giving people a chance?

Example answer: I think Mrs. Bradley shows a lot of patience because she does not give up when the rehearsals are messy. Other people mostly complain about the Herdmans, but she tries to teach them and include them. This shows kindness because she gives them a chance to learn instead of deciding they are hopeless. It makes me think people can surprise us if someone believes in them.

In Chapter 7, why do you think the narrator calls this the best Christmas pageant ever? What changed about the pageant or about the way people saw the Herdmans?

Example answer: I think the narrator calls it the best pageant ever because it felt real instead of perfect. The Herdmans did not act exactly like everyone expected, but they helped people notice the Christmas story in a new way. Imogene crying made me think she finally understood how special the baby was. By the end, people saw the Herdmans as more than just troublemakers.

Chapter 1

In Chapter 1, how does the narrator describe the Herdman children? What details help you understand why people in town are afraid of them?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

In Chapter 6, people are worried about what will happen during the pageant. What clues make you feel worried or hopeful about the performance? Explain your thinking.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

In Chapter 5, Mrs. Bradley keeps trying to make the pageant work even when many people think it will be a disaster. What does her behavior show about patience, kindness, or giving people a chance?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

In Chapter 2, why do the Herdmans come to church, and how do the other children react? What do you predict will happen now that the Herdmans are involved in the Christmas pageant?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

In Chapter 3, how do the Herdmans end up with the most important parts in the pageant? What does this show about their personalities and the way they treat other kids?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

In Chapter 4, the Herdmans ask many questions about the Christmas story because it is new to them. Choose one word, custom, or part of the story they misunderstand, and explain what it really means and why their reaction is funny or surprising.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
