

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 birchbark house

Author:

Louise Erdrich

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.

Old Tallow can seem scary and kind at the same time. What do her words and actions show about the kind of person she is?

Example answer: I think Old Tallow is a person who does not show her feelings in a soft way, but she still cares deeply. She can be sharp and serious, so some people are afraid of her. However, her actions show that she protects others and pays close attention to what people need. To me, she is strong, brave, and more loving than she first appears.

How to Answer (continued)

During the sickness, how do different family members show love and responsibility? Give examples from the chapter.

Example answer: The family shows love by taking care of each other even when they are scared and tired. They do not give up on the sick people, and they try to bring comfort and help. Omakayas also helps in the ways she can, which shows she is growing more responsible. This chapter made me see that love is not just words; it is also actions.

By the end of the book, how has Omakayas changed from the beginning? What lesson or theme do you think the author wants readers to remember?

Example answer: By the end, I think Omakayas has become stronger and more aware of who she is. At the beginning, she is a curious girl who loves her family, but later she survives great sadness and learns important truths about her past. She also begins to understand that she may have a gift for helping others. I think one theme is that family, courage, and remembering who you are can help people get through hard times.

Chapter 1

In the opening chapter, what do you learn about the baby on Spirit Island, and what questions does this make you wonder about her future?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 14

By the end of the book, how has Omakayas changed from the beginning? What lesson or theme do you think the author wants readers to remember?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 13

What new information does Omakayas learn about her past, and how does it change the way she understands herself?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

How does the birchbark house fit the needs of Omakayas's family during the summer? Use details from the chapter to explain your thinking.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

Old Tallow can seem scary and kind at the same time. What do her words and actions show about the kind of person she is?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 12

The story shows that Omakayas may have a special gift. What do you think this gift is, and how might she use it to help others?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 11

How does Omakayas deal with grief in this chapter? What people, memories, or beliefs seem to help her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

How does Omakayas's relationship with Andeg begin to grow, and what does the crow add to her life?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

Omakayas and her family work hard to get food and supplies. What does this chapter show about being resourceful?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 10

During the sickness, how do different family members show love and responsibility? Give examples from the chapter.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

A visitor brings news and trouble to the family. What clues show that something serious may happen next?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

When Omakayas faces danger or fear in this chapter, how does she react? What does her reaction tell you about her character?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

What changes do you notice as the story moves toward fall? How do these changes affect the family's daily life?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

Choose one important task from this chapter, such as gathering or preparing food. Why does teamwork matter for this task?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
