

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 Boxcar Children

Author:

Gertrude Chandler Warner

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.

The children find a boxcar in Chapter 3. Why does it seem like a good home for them, and what might be difficult about living there?

Example answer: I think the boxcar seems like a good home because it gives the children shelter and a place where they can stay together. They can make it cozy with the things they find, and it feels safer than wandering around. But living there would also be difficult because they do not have a real kitchen, beds, or adults to help them. They have to be brave and figure out many things on their own.

How to Answer (continued)

In Chapter 10, Henry joins the Free-for-All race. What do his actions during the race show about his personality and values?

Example answer: Henry's actions show that he is determined and hardworking. He wants to do well, but he also cares about being fair and responsible. I think he is proud, but not in a mean way, because he wants to help his family. This chapter made me see him as someone who tries his best even when things are hard.

By the end of Chapter 13, how has the idea of "home" changed for the Alden children? What do you think the author is saying about family and belonging?

Example answer: At first, home means a safe place where the children can hide and take care of each other. By the end, home becomes a place where they can be loved and not be afraid. I think the author is saying that family is not just about a house, but about people who care for you. The children still love their boxcar, but they learn they can belong with their grandfather too.

Chapter 1

In Chapter 1, what do you learn about the Alden children and their situation? Use details from the chapter to explain why they are afraid of being found.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 13

By the end of Chapter 13, how has the idea of "home" changed for the Alden children? What do you think the author is saying about family and belonging?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

Chapter 2 is called "Night Is Turned into Day." How does the night change for the children, and what does this show about their problem-solving skills?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

The children find a boxcar in Chapter 3. Why does it seem like a good home for them, and what might be difficult about living there?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 12

Chapter 12 reveals more about James Henry and Henry James. How does this chapter change what the children, and the reader, understand about Grandfather?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 11

In Chapter 11, the doctor becomes important to the story. How does his help change what happens to the children?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

In Chapter 4, Henry has two surprises. How do these surprises affect him and the other children?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

The children are excited by the things they find in Chapter 5. What does the word "treasure" mean in this chapter, and why are simple things so valuable to them?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 10

In Chapter 10, Henry joins the Free-for-All race. What do his actions during the race show about his personality and values?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

Chapter 9 takes place in a cherry orchard. How does the setting add fun, danger, or excitement to the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

In Chapter 6, the children hear a strange noise in the night. How do they react, and what does their reaction tell you about their characters?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

Chapter 7 includes a big meal made from little onions. What does this chapter show about teamwork and making the best of what you have?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

In Chapter 8, the children finally have a swimming pool. How does this event help the children feel more comfortable in their new life?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
