

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 First State of Being

Author:

Erin Entrada Kelly

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.

What does this chapter suggest about being brave when you are confused or scared?

Example answer: I think this chapter shows that bravery does not mean Michael has no fear. He worries about things he cannot fully understand, like the future and what might happen next. But he still pays attention and tries to make careful choices. To me, that makes his bravery quiet but real.

Chapter 48

After finishing this chapter, what do you think the story wants you to remember about living in the present?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 47

What do you think the title *The First State of Being* makes you notice about this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

How to Answer (continued)

What is one connection you can make between Michael's worries and worries kids might have today?

Example answer: Michael's worries remind me of how kids today can feel nervous about big things in the world, even when adults say everything will be fine. Sometimes news, technology, or rumors can make the future seem scary. I connect with Michael because he wants answers, not just someone telling him not to worry. That feels very realistic.

What do you think the title *The First State of Being* makes you notice about this chapter?

Example answer: The title makes me think about Delaware being called the First State, but also about Michael's state of mind. In this chapter, I noticed how much the characters are trying to figure out who they are and where they belong. The title helps me look for more than just events. It makes me pay attention to feelings, choices, and change.

Chapter 1

After this chapter, what do you understand about Michael Rosario's life in Delaware, and which detail helped you see it?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 46

Which relationship seems most important in this chapter, and how is it tested or strengthened?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 45

What lesson might a reader take from this chapter without the author saying it directly?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

What small clue in this chapter shows the time period, the place, or the kind of world Michael lives in?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

Which moment from this chapter makes Michael seem worried, curious, hopeful, or unsure, and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 44

How does Michael handle uncertainty in this chapter, and what does that reveal about him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 43

What question about identity, time, or being does this chapter raise for you?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

How does this chapter build a question or mystery you want answered later?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

What is one choice a character makes in this chapter, and what might that choice show about the person?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 42

How does the chapter show that one person's actions can affect other people?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 41

What image or sensory detail from this chapter helped you picture the scene?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

How does Erin Entrada Kelly make an ordinary moment feel interesting or important in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

What do you notice about Michael's relationship with his mom, Gibby, Ridge, or another character so far?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 40

Which part of the chapter shows a character changing their mind, seeing something new, or learning a lesson?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 39

What message about family, safety, or belonging appears in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

If Ridge appears or is discussed in this chapter, what new question do you have about him; if not, what question do you still have about Michael's world?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

What is the most important thing Michael learns, notices, or feels in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 38

What important difference do you notice between Michael's time and Ridge's possible time, if Ridge's future is part of this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 37

How does this chapter use suspense to keep you reading?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 10

Which word or phrase from this chapter seems important to the mood, and what feeling does it create?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 11

How does this chapter show that people can be afraid of things they do not fully understand?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 36

Which character seems to be hiding, protecting, or holding back information, and what makes you think so?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 35

What does this chapter make you think about preparing for the future?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 12

What prediction can you make from the hints in this chapter, and what evidence supports it?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 13

What part of this chapter felt most realistic to you, even if the book includes time-travel ideas?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 34

How do you feel about Michael's decisions in this chapter, and what would you have done differently or the same?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 33

What information does this chapter give you without explaining everything at once?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 14

What does this chapter suggest about being brave when you are confused or scared?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 15

How does the setting of Delaware or Michael's neighborhood affect what happens or how characters feel?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 32

How does this chapter make you think about the value of friendship?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 31

What is one connection you can make between Michael's worries and worries kids might have today?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 16

Which character do you understand better after this chapter, and what changed your thinking?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 17

What is one problem in this chapter that seems small on the outside but feels big to a character?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 30

How does the author use humor, awkwardness, or quiet moments to make the characters feel real?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 29

Find a word in this chapter that was new, strong, or interesting; what do you think it means from context?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 18

How does this chapter connect to the idea that the future can feel exciting and frightening at the same time?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 19

What would you ask Michael if you could talk to him right after this chapter, and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 28

Which action in this chapter seems kind, selfish, careful, or risky, and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 27

What surprised you in this chapter, and how did it change your expectations?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 20

What would you ask Ridge, or ask about Ridge, based on what you know so far?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 21

How does Gibby or another supporting character help you see a different side of Michael?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 26

How does this chapter show the difference between what adults understand and what kids understand?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 25

What is one thing Michael wants right now, and how can you tell?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 22

What detail in this chapter made you wonder about time, memory, or change?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 23

Which sentence, scene, or description would you reread because it seems meaningful, and what makes it stand out?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 24

How do the characters in this chapter show trust or mistrust?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
