

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 Great Brain

Author:

John Dennis Fitzgerald

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 2: Tom finds a way to turn a situation into a chance to make money. What is his plan, and how do the other children react?

Example answer: I think Tom's plan shows how quickly he can notice what people want. He sees a chance to make money because the other children are curious and willing to pay or trade. Some of the children seem impressed by him, but they also get tricked because Tom is thinking mostly about himself. This makes me feel that Tom is clever, but not always fair.

Chapter 8

Chapter 8: By the end of the book, what do you think the story is saying about cleverness, honesty, and family? Do you think Tom has changed? Why or why not?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

Chapter 7: How do J.D.'s feelings about Tom change as the events unfold? Give two details that show what J.D. admires or dislikes.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

How to Answer (continued)

Chapter 6: When does Tom use his 'great brain' in a helpful way? What does this show about the difference between being smart and being kind?

Example answer: Tom uses his great brain in a helpful way when he solves a problem that is bigger than just making money for himself. I noticed that he can understand people and figure out what needs to happen. Being smart means he can make a good plan, but being kind means he uses that plan to help someone else. This chapter made me think Tom has the power to do good if he chooses to.

Chapter 8: By the end of the book, what do you think the story is saying about cleverness, honesty, and family? Do you think Tom has changed? Why or why not?

Example answer: I think the story shows that cleverness can be good or bad depending on how a person uses it. Tom is very smart, but sometimes he hurts people's feelings or takes advantage of them. His family still cares about him, and J.D. seems to both admire him and get frustrated with him. I do not think Tom has completely changed, but I think he has moments when he understands that using his brain to help others is better than only helping himself.

Chapter 1

Chapter 1: How does J.D. introduce his brother Tom, and what details show that Tom's brain is both impressive and troublesome?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

Chapter 6: When does Tom use his 'great brain' in a helpful way? What does this show about the difference between being smart and being kind?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

Chapter 5: Tom's choices affect more than just himself. What do you predict will happen if he keeps using his cleverness mainly to get what he wants? Use clues from the chapter.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

Chapter 2: Tom finds a way to turn a situation into a chance to make money. What is his plan, and how do the other children react?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

Chapter 3: Choose one character who is fooled, helped, or challenged by Tom. What does that character learn from the experience?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

Chapter 4: Find an interesting vocabulary word in this chapter that connects to Tom's behavior. What does the word mean, and why does it fit what Tom does?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
