

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:

Top Story

Author:

Kelly Yang

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 what ways are Mia's interest in writing and Lupe's interest in math alike and different? Use what you know so far.

Example answer: I think Mia and Lupe are alike because they both have an interest they want to develop. Mia's camp focuses on writing, while Lupe's camp focuses on math and includes a competition. Both subjects take practice and careful thinking. Their plans remind me that friends can enjoy different things and still understand each other's goals.

How to Answer (continued)

Would you rather attend Mia's writing camp or Lupe's math camp? Explain your choice and what you would hope to learn.

Example answer: I would choose Mia's writing camp because I like asking questions and sharing ideas. I would want to learn how newspaper writers decide which details are important. Math camp sounds interesting too, but writing is something I especially want to practice. I would hope to leave camp knowing how to make my writing clearer.

What connections can you make between the title Top Story and what you know about Mia so far? Explain more than one possible meaning.

Example answer: I connect the title to Mia's newspaper writing camp because a top story could be an important piece of news. I also think the title could make readers ask whose stories deserve attention. To me, an important story does not have to be about a famous person. I will watch for how Mia learns to notice stories that matter.

Chapter 1

So far, what seems most important to Mia about attending the newspaper's writing camp? Explain what helps you understand her goal.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 58

If you could choose the next scene in Mia's story, what would you want to see? Explain how that scene could build on what you have already read.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 57

What lesson about following an interest seems to be developing in Mia and Lupe's story? Explain how the book is helping you think about that lesson.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

What have you learned about Lupe's interests or goals so far? Describe a detail that helps you understand her.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

How does being in San Francisco shape the story so far? Explain what the setting adds to Mia and Lupe's winter break.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 56

How has your first impression of Mia been strengthened or changed by your reading so far? Give a detail that shaped your thinking.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 55

Which detail about Mia or Lupe feels especially believable to you? Explain why it reminds you of how real people think, feel, or act.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

Based on your reading so far, how might Mrs. Tang's interests or goals connect with Lupe's? Use a detail to explain your thinking.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

Looking ahead from where you stopped, what do you think Mia might learn about writing? Explain what makes your prediction reasonable.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 54

Compare the beginning and ending of the chapter you just read. What changed in your understanding of Mia's situation, even if the change was small?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 53

Choose a word connected to writing, math, or learning from your reading. Explain its meaning in your own words and why it matters in that part of the story.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

Which word would you use to describe Mia's attitude so far? Explain its meaning and support your choice with a detail.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

What do you appreciate about Mia and Lupe's friendship at this point? Explain why that quality matters.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 52

Make a prediction about a question Mia may need to answer for herself. Explain how that question connects to her goals so far.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 51

Whose point of view would you like to hear besides Mia's at this point? Explain what Lupe, Mrs. Tang, or another character might help you understand.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

Which challenge facing Mia or Lupe seems most important right now? Explain what makes it challenging.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

Choose a decision Mia has made in your reading so far. What does that decision help you understand about her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 50

What can Mia and Lupe's different interests teach readers about talent? Support your idea with what you know about both characters.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 49

What strength do you notice in Lupe so far?
Explain how that strength could help her in math or in friendship.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 10

What does the story suggest so far about getting better at something? Connect your thinking to Mia's or Lupe's interests.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 11

In what ways are Mia's interest in writing and Lupe's interest in math alike and different? Use what you know so far.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 48

Which goal in the story would be hardest for you to work toward? Explain your choice by comparing yourself with Mia or Lupe.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 47

What connections can you make between the title Top Story and what you know about Mia so far? Explain more than one possible meaning.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 12

How do you predict Mia and Lupe could support each other during their winter break? Connect your prediction to what you know about them.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 13

Which feeling best describes Mia at your stopping point? Explain the clues that helped you decide.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 46

Which words in your reading help make San Francisco or another setting feel real? Explain what those words help you imagine.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 45

Identify something that has affected Mia's thoughts or actions so far. Explain the connection between what happened and her response.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 14

Find a word you did not know well in your reading. How do the words around it help you understand its meaning in Mia's story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 15

If you could ask Kelly Yang one question about Mia's winter break so far, what would you ask, and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 44

Which skill do you predict will be especially useful to Mia during her writing experience? Explain why that skill could matter.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 43

When have you felt something like a feeling Mia or Lupe has shown? Explain both the connection and one way your situations differ.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 16

How would you summarize the story so far for someone who knows only that Mia and Lupe are visiting San Francisco? Choose the details that matter most.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 17

Where do you notice a question about fairness in Mia's story so far? Explain what seems fair or unfair and why.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 42

How might Mia and Lupe balance their own goals with being good friends? Connect your thinking to their situation so far.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 41

What have you learned about Mrs. Tang as a person with her own interests? Explain how that adds to your understanding of her.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 18

What might courage look like for Mia at this point in the book? Use something you know about her to explain.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 19

How does Mia's interest in a newspaper make you think about the job of sharing information? Explain one responsibility you think a writer has.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 40

Look for an expression that means more than its exact words. What does it mean, and how does it fit the moment in Mia's story? If you cannot find one, explain a vivid phrase instead.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 39

Do you think writing for a newspaper would suit Mia? Support your opinion with what you know about her so far.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 20

Choose something Mia or Lupe has said in your reading so far. What do the words reveal about the speaker?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 21

Which part of the San Francisco setting do you think could matter more as the story continues? Explain your prediction without reading ahead.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 38

Select a sentence that gives you a strong sense of Mia's personality. Explain what her words or thoughts reveal.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 37

Which small detail from your reading seems worth remembering? Explain how it might help you understand Mia's story.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 22

What advice would you give Mia at this point? Explain how your advice fits her situation.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 23

Pick a descriptive word or phrase from your reading. How does it help you picture Mia's surroundings or experiences?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 36

If Mia faced a setback next, how do you think she would respond? Use her behavior so far to support your prediction.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 35

What does Mia seem to need from a friend right now? Explain how you reached that idea.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 24

How do Mia and Lupe seem different in the way they approach their goals? Explain using what you have read so far.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 25

What has Mia's story made you think about learning outside a regular classroom? Connect your idea to her winter-break plans or experiences.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 34

How would Mia or Lupe describe success at this point? Explain whether success might mean more than winning or being praised.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 33

Why might listening carefully be useful to Mia as a writer? Connect your answer to something you have noticed in the story so far.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 26

What question about Lupe are you still hoping the book will answer? Explain why that question interests you.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 27

How does seeing events through Mia's point of view affect your understanding of the story? Describe something you understand especially well because of her viewpoint.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 32

What mood did your latest reading leave you with? Explain how a detail involving Mia, Lupe, or their surroundings helped create it.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 31

Find a word or phrase that helps show a character's feelings. What does it suggest about that character's experience in Mia's story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 28

What role do you think Mrs. Tang might play as the story continues? Base your prediction on what you know about her so far.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 29

Choose one thing Mia wants at this point. How do her actions show how much she wants it?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 30

Would you rather attend Mia's writing camp or Lupe's math camp? Explain your choice and what you would hope to learn.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
