

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:

Whirligig

Author:

Paul Fleischman

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 Chapter 1, Brent wants very badly to fit in at the party. What choices does he make, and how do those choices lead to serious consequences?

Example answer: I think Brent makes choices because he feels embarrassed and lonely. He drinks even though he should not, and then he drives when he is upset. Those choices cause a terrible crash and hurt another family forever. This chapter shows me that trying to impress people is not worth making unsafe decisions.

How to Answer (continued)

In Chapter 5, Brent is working on his journey and learning new skills. What does the word “apprentice” mean in this chapter, and how is Brent like an apprentice?

Example answer: I think an apprentice is someone who learns by practicing and by watching others. Brent is like an apprentice because he is not an expert at making whirligigs at first. He has to figure out tools, designs, and how to keep going when the work is hard. He is also learning how to be a better person while he builds.

In Chapter 9, Brent’s journey comes to an end. What do you think is the most important lesson Brent learns, and how can that lesson connect to your own life?

Example answer: I think Brent learns that one action can affect many people, even people he does not know. At first, his action causes pain, but later his whirligigs bring hope and beauty to others. This connects to my life because my choices can also help or hurt people around me. It reminds me to think before I act.

Chapter 1

In Chapter 1, Brent wants very badly to fit in at the party. What choices does he make, and how do those choices lead to serious consequences?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

In Chapter 9, Brent’s journey comes to an end. What do you think is the most important lesson Brent learns, and how can that lesson connect to your own life?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

In Chapter 2, people in Weeksboro see one of Brent’s whirligigs. How does the whirligig affect someone’s thoughts, feelings, or choices?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

In Chapter 3, Brent begins to understand what happened after the crash. How do you think guilt changes the way Brent sees himself and the world around him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

In Chapter 8, the San Diego whirligig becomes part of another person’s life. What connection do you see between Brent’s actions and the lives of strangers?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

In Chapter 7, Brent keeps building whirligigs in different places. How is Brent changing as a character from the beginning of the book to this point?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

In Chapter 4, the story shows new characters in Miami who notice a whirligig. What does this chapter show about how one small object can matter to people Brent has never met?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

In Chapter 5, Brent is working on his journey and learning new skills. What does the word “apprentice” mean in this chapter, and how is Brent like an apprentice?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

In Chapter 6, characters in Bellevue react to a whirligig in their own way. What message or feeling do they seem to get from it, and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
