

Reflections:

A Student Response Journal for...

Walk Two Moons

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Chapter 1

A FACE AT THE WINDOW

1. As you read *Walk Two Moons*, keep a list of all the words that you do not recognize. When you come to the end of each chapter, look up the definitions for the words that you do not know.
2. Sal is leaving everything she knows and loves in Kentucky to live in Euclid, Ohio. She is not happy about having to move. Write a letter to Sal to calm her fears about having to move. A good way to begin may be:

Dear Sal,

I know it's sad when you have to leave your home, but...

3. Sal's father "pounded and pounded on [a] wall" when he found out that his wife was not coming home. We can imagine that he did this to "let off some steam" and get rid of his frustrations. What are some things that you do to relieve stress? Do you play a sport, go running or do you do something quiet like read or write? In a short essay, describe what you do to relax and relieve stress. Be sure to explain what you do and why doing that activity makes you feel better.
4. Pheobe's story leads Sal to find out new things about herself. Has there ever been a person in your life who has taught you something you never knew about yourself? Has anyone ever shown you a side of yourself that you never knew existed? Write a brief essay about someone who has helped you to see a different side of yourself. Be sure to mention who the person was, what happened, and what you learned from the experience.

Chapter 2

THE CHICKABIDDY STARTS A STORY

5. Salamanca, who was introduced to us as “Sal,” says that she is “stubborn as an old donkey.” This is an example of a simile, a comparison of two things using the words “like” or “as.” Make a list of ten other well-known similes. Here are a few to get you started:

As sly as a fox
As mad as a wet hen
As nervous as a cat

6. Salamanca says that her middle name, Tree, was given to her because trees are “[things] of...beauty.” If you could choose some natural thing, a plant, an animal, or a natural occurrence, to represent you, what would it be? What one thing in nature best represents you? In a short essay, explain your choice.

Chapter 3

BRAVERY

7. Salamanca says that she is afraid of “car accidents, death, cancer, brain tumors, nuclear war, pregnant women, loud noises, strict teachers, elevators, and scads of other things.” What are some of the things that scare you? Do you and Sal share some of the same fears? Write a letter to Salamanca describing some of your own fears, then compare them with hers. A good way to begin may be:

Dear Salamanca,

There are many things that people may find scary. Some of the things that scare me are...

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8. Salamanca says, “I have...realized that if people expect you to be brave, sometimes you pretend that you are, even when you are frightened down to your very bones.” Have you ever pretended to be something you were not, just because people expected it? For example, have you ever pretended to be brave at the dentist’s office, even though you were really scared? Have you ever pretended to be in a good mood around your friends, even though you had a rotten day? In a journal entry, describe a time when you pretended to be something you really weren’t.
9. Some readers think this book is funny. Do you agree? Make a list of ten things, situations, or comments in this book that you think are funny. If you don’t find this book funny, your list should include ten examples that demonstrate the seriousness of this book.
10. You are in Salamanca’s class at school, would you want to be her friend? Write a note to another classmate explaining why you would or would not want to be Sal’s friend. Be sure to completely explain your answer by using specific examples from the text.

Chapter 4

THAT’S WHAT I’M TELLING YOU

11. Sal does not like living in Euclid. She says that she “wanted everything to be like it was.” If you could go back to any time or place you have experienced in your life, which would you choose? Is there a particular vacation you wish you could enjoy again? Is there a particular place you wish you could revisit? Is there a time in your life you would like to return to? Write a creative short story depicting this specific time or place in your past. Retell all the events that made this place or time remain in your memory. Be descriptive. Your story should have characters (their names can be changed) and a setting. Your story should answer all the questions listed above.

Response Journal

12. Mrs. Partridge, who is blind, can tell Phoebe's age. Phoebe finds this remarkable. Phoebe never really paid any attention to Mrs. Partridge, so she never knew that Mrs. Partridge had this special gift. Have you ever been, like Phoebe, "blind" to another person's gifts? Have you ever been surprised to find out something new about a person? Have you, like Phoebe, ignored someone, only to be amazed to find out that the person was really very nice or had a great talent? Explain.
13. Phoebe points out that Mrs. Cadaver, whose name means "dead body," is a nurse, someone who helps to heal people. Phoebe thinks that Mrs. Cadaver's name is creepy. Do you agree with her? How would you feel, for example, if you had a doctor named Dr. Funeral? What if your teacher's name was Mrs. Alwaysfail? Would something like that bother you, or would you find it funny? Be sure to explain your answer.

Chapter 5

DAMSEL IN DISTRESS

14. Several times in this chapter, animals are used to provide a description. For example, Sal says, "My grandparents can get into trouble as easily as a fly can land on a watermelon"; when Gramps is helping the "damsel," he describes the hoses in the engine as "snakes." Write a creative story on any topic (e.g., an experience at the mall, a trip to the movies, or an event you attended); use nature when describing different parts of your story. This assignment should not exceed five paragraphs.

Chapter 6

BLACKBERRIES

15. Compare and contrast your own family with the Winterbottoms. Is dinner at your house similar to dinner at Phoebe's house? How are your families similar? How are they different?

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16. Sal says that Phoebe is “dramatic.” If Phoebe was an actress and you could cast her in a movie or TV role, whom do you think she would best play? What other fictional character would be a good match for Phoebe? Explain why Phoebe is perfect for these roles.
17. Do you have any friends that are like Phoebe? Choose two friends you know well to compare and contrast their personalities with Phoebe’s.
18. Write an e-mail to a classmate in which you explain the character of Mrs. Winterbottom. A good way to begin may be to say:

I think Mrs. Winterbottom is not appreciated by her family because...

Chapter 7

ILL-AH-NO-WAY

19. When Sal thinks of watching the newborn calf walk, she realizes that she does not need her mother to be happy. Usually when we are small children, we learn to do some things on our own, without our parents’ help. What was the first thing you did on your own, without your parents’ assistance? Do you remember the first time you tied your shoes by yourself? Do you remember the first time you fixed yourself something to eat or poured yourself something to drink? In a short essay, describe the first time you did something by yourself and how that accomplishment made you feel.
20. Among the places Sal will visit on her trip are the Badlands and the Black Hills. Sal says that she “didn’t like the sound of either of those places.” Sometimes, the names of places do not match the type of place itself. For example, just because a town is called “Blackeye” does not mean that people who live there get into a lot of fights. Do some brief research and create a list of ten town names that you think sound odd. Then, choose one of those towns and write a brief report that explains how the town got its name. Do you think the name given to that particular town is appropriate? Be sure to explain your answer.