



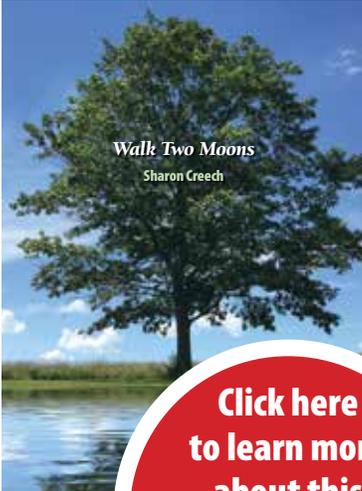
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Walk Two Moons
Sharon Creech



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Response Journal

To The Student

Although we may read a novel, play, or work of non-fiction for enjoyment, each time we read one, we are building and practicing important basic reading skills. In our ever-more complex society, in which reading has become more and more crucial for success, this, in itself, is an important reason to spend time reading for enjoyment.

Some readers, however, are able to go beyond basic reading techniques and are able to practice higher thinking skills by reflecting on what they have read and how what they read affects them. It is this act of reflection—that is, stopping to think about what you are reading—that this journal is attempting to encourage.

To aid you, we have included writing prompts for each section; however, if you find something that you wish to respond to in the book more compelling than our prompts, you should write about that. We hope you enjoy reading this book and that the act of responding to what you have read increases this enjoyment.

After you read the indicated sections, choose the questions to which you will respond. Keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers to these prompts, and there is no one direction in which you must go.

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.

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?

38. The note the Winterbottoms receive in this chapter reads, “In the course of a lifetime, what does it matter?” Have you ever asked yourself the same thing? When you are under stress, do you worry, or do you just think, as the note says, “...what does it matter?” Do you simply forget about problems, or do you get upset? Include the answers to these questions in a journal entry and be sure to completely explain your answer.
39. Sal regrets that she snapped at her mother on the last day her mother was home. Sal probably wants to take back the words she said, but she will never be able to do that. If you were given the chance to take back something you did or said, would you do it? If so, what would you take back, and why would you want to change it? Be sure to explain your choice.

Chapter 18

THE GOOD MAN

40. Sal’s mother had to go to Idaho to “clear her heart of bad things.” If you could choose any place on earth to “get away from it all” for a little while, where would you go? What is your dream place to visit? Would you want to move away permanently, or just go to visit every now and then?
41. There are many Native-American elements in this story. For example, Sal says of her mother that “she knew about thunder gods, earth-makers, wise crows, sly coyotes, and shadow souls.” Do a little bit of research. Then, write a short story about the role **one** of the following things plays in Native-American folklore:

Thunder gods

Earth-makers

Wise crows

Sly coyotes

Shadow souls

Chapter 29

THE TIDE RISES

61. Choose any poem (not one in this story) and write an interpretation. Everyone interprets poetry differently, so no answer is right or wrong. Be sure to support your interpretation with examples from the poem.

Chapter 30

BREAKING IN

62. Sal says that she thinks Phoebe does not mean to break into Mrs. Cadaver's house. Everyone has done something unintentionally. Think of something you have done by accident. What problems did it cause for you? Did everything turn out all right in the end? Did you regret what you did, or did you only regret what happened as a result of the action? In a journal entry describe your experience. Be sure to answer all the questions asked above.
63. Sal's mother taught her to visualize things. Visualize that the race can be won. Then it can be done! Sal's response, though, was to question, "What if *everyone* visualizes himself winning the race?" Who, between Sal and her mother, has the more realistic view? Do you think, as Sal's mother does, that if you can dream something, you can achieve it, or do you think, as Sal does, that there can only ever be one person who is the best, and all others have to deal with being in second place? Be sure to explain your answer.

Chapter 31

THE PHOTOGRAPH

64. Mr. Birkway reads some journal entries to the class; the first discusses how offensive some words can be. Make a list of ten words or phrases (no profanity) that may offend you or someone you know.