

Rising 6th Grade Summer Reading

General Info:

- **Title:** *Hatchet*
- **Author:** Gary Paulsen
- **Print length :** 192 pages
- **ISBN-10 :** 1416936475
- **ISBN-13 :** 978-1416936473

Directions:

- **Step 1:** Read the book. You know the drill; left to right, top to bottom, front to back. Read the whole thing. Not a fan of reading? You don't need to be, but you do need to finish the book. My advice? Spice it up a little. I'm a big fan of reading in a cool location that makes me happy, but doesn't distract me. For example, I love reading at the beach with my toes in the sand or under a shady tree in my backyard with something special to drink. I don't recommend reading with music, television, or videos on in the background; all three are designed to hold your attention, which will make reading more difficult. In addition, reading before bed can be effective for some people, but it can also be a recipe for falling asleep. Know what works for you.
- **Step 2:** Complete the comprehension questions that accompany each chapter. The questions follow the events in the book. I recommend reading through the questions before you read the book; this way, you're giving your brain a chance to make mental notes as you read.
- **Step 3:** Complete the superhero reflection. Your text evidence should be directly from the book. Please make sure your evidence is punctuated correctly with quotation marks. In addition, include the page number for each piece of evidence

Due Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2026

NAME: _____

TEACHER: _____

HOMEROOM: _____

DATE: _____

Directions: Answer the questions below in complete sentences.

1. Why was Brian traveling in a bushplane? (Chapter 1)

2. Why did Brian's mother give him a hatchet? How did Brian feel about the gift? (Chapter 1)

3. How did Brian know a little about how to fly the plane? (Chapter 2)

4. What did Brian plan on doing in order to safely land the plane? (Chapter 2)

5. Why did Brian want to find a lake directly in front of him? (Chapter 3)

6. The author provides a sensory description of the crash landing. List the sensory details that were used; for example: sights, sounds, smells, etc. (Chapter 3)

7. Describe the secret that was “like a knife cutting into Brian.” Why was this thought so upsetting to him? (Chapter 4)

8. What new menace plagued Brian with the rising of the sun? How was the problem solved? (Chapter 4)

9. Explain why Brian had both good and bad luck. (Chapter 4)

10. Brian suffered from a great thirst. Why was he reluctant to drink the water? (Chapter 5)

11. What thought haunted Brian and caused him to panic? (Chapter 5)

12. Why did Brian choose to set up his shelter close to the lake? (Chapter 6)

13. Whom did Brian blame for his predicament? (Chapter 6)

14. What happened after Brian ate so many berries? (Chapter 7)

15. What sight caused Brian to “do nothing, think nothing?” (Chapter 7)

16. What caused Brian to cry until he was all cried out? (Chapter 8)

17. What does Brian discover to be the most important rule of survival? (Chapter 8)

18. What mistake did Brian make in the use of his hatchet? Why might this have been a costly error?

(Chapter 8)

19. Brian finally realized a way to make fire. What is his idea and how did he get his idea? (Chapter 8)

20. Why were Brian's first attempts to make fire unsuccessful? (Chapter 9)

21. How did Brian apply his past science lessons when he was making fire? (Chapter 9)

22. What important discovery did Brian make after reading tracks in the sand? (Chapter 10)

23. Why did Brian think that "he had never felt so rich somehow?" (Chapter 10)

24. Explain Brian's plan for a signal fire. (Chapter 11)

25. How did Brian get the idea to catch fish? (Chapter 11)

26. How did Brian make his fishing spear? Why didn't it work for him? (Chapter 12)

27. Brian's eating habits had changed. What did he notice about himself and his eating? (Chapter 12)

28. Explain "refraction." How did understanding this phenomenon help Brian catch his first fish? (Chapter 13)

29. According to Brian, what was the "great, single driving influence in nature?" (Chapter 14)

30. What lessons did the skunk teach Brian? (Chapter 14)

31. Explain Brian's solution for storing fish. (Chapter 14)

32. Describe Brian's method of keeping track of time. (Chapter 15)

33. What was it about the foolbirds that drove Brian crazy? (Chapter 15)

34. What is the secret to finding the foolbirds? (Chapter 15)

35. After the devastation of the tornado, Brian was able to show some humor. Cite the example (Chapter 16)

36. What did Brian discover while measuring the tornado's damage? (Chapter 16)

37. Why did Brian build a raft? (Chapter 17)

38. What important lesson did Brian quickly remember after dropping the hatchet? (Chapter 18)

39. What did Brian decide to do with the food inside the survival bag? (Chapter 19)

40. Some of the changes Brian underwent were permanent. Explain. (Epilogue)

Hatchet Reflection

Directions: “Resilience” is the ability to adapt, recover, and even grow stronger in the face of adversity, trauma, or stress. Using that definition as a guide, consider the following statement: “Brian demonstrates resilience.” Do you agree or disagree? Circle or highlight the statement below that best describes your feelings. Then, find two pieces of text evidence that support your circled statement and write them in the spaces provided. Make sure your evidence is in quotation marks and includes a page number. Finally, explain your evidence in the spaces provided; a sentence starter has been provided for you.

Brian demonstrates resilience.
Brian does not demonstrate resilience.

Text evidence #1

Explanation

This first quote shows that Brian (does / does not) demonstrate resilience because _____

Text evidence #2

Explanation

This second quote shows that Brian (does / does not) demonstrate resilience because _____
