

HATCHET

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READING RIGHT

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HATCHET

Synopsis

Brian is going to visit his father for the first time since his parent's divorce. His father works in the Canadian oil fields where only a small private plane can land. During the flight the pilot has a heart attack and the plane crashes. Brian must survive with only the hatchet his mother gave him. Brian learns quickly that he must eat and find shelter. A porcupine and a moose attack Brian. A bear however, chooses to leave him alone. He begins to survive on his own. After several months a storm causes the plane to resurface and he is finally able to retrieve the survival pack from the plane which has food and a rescue signal. The rescue signal brings an astonished pilot to the rescue and Brian returns home safely.

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Lesson 2

Chapters 5 - 7

1. Which of Brian's thoughts scare him the most?
 - A. There isn't any food
 - B. Wild animals will attack him
 - C. He won't be found

2. What does Brian find first to eat?
 - A. lizards
 - B. beans
 - C. berries

3. Why didn't the bear at the raspberry patch attack Brian?

4. What does "asset" mean?
("You are your most valuable asset")

5. Chapter Six starts out with a :
 - A. prediction
 - B. flashback
 - C. scene from a movie

6. Why does Brian keep comparing current events to movies he has seen?

7. Do you think Brian is having good or bad luck?
Explain your answer.

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LESSON 3
Chapters 8 - 12

1. List two of the words that appealed to your sense of smell that the author uses in describing the porcupine.

2. What did Brian use to make a nest for the sparks to start his fire?
 - A. The soft inner lining of a bird's nest
 - B. Thin silvers of bark peeling
 - C. Small strips taken from his shirt

3. Where did Brian find the eggs, a new source of food ?
 - A. In a bird's nest that was up in a tree
 - B. In a bush by the rock ledge
 - C. In the sand by the lake

4. What does "dormant" mean?

5. What did Brian mean when he said that feeling sorry for yourself doesn't work?

6. Do you think Brian's dad and Terry really appeared to Brian? Explain.

7. Describe at least two of the benefits Brian received by having a fire?

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Lesson 4

Chapters 13 -16

1. Chapter thirteen begins how many days after the previous chapter ends?
2. What is the first important thing Brian learned about nature?
 - A. Everything has to eat
 - B. Nothing in nature is lazy
 - C. There are no short cuts to surviving
3. Brian prefers to think of time in:
 - A. birthdays
 - B. days
 - C. events
4. What is the meaning of "refracts"?
("...he had forgotten that water refracts light...")
5. Put the following events in the correct order.
 - _____ the skunk spray briefly blinds Brian.
 - _____ A moose attacks _ Brian.
 - _____ Brian catches his first fish.
 - _____ Brian catches a fool bird to eat.
6. What does "tough hope" mean to you?
7. When things don't seem to be going the way Brain wants, what does he do?
8. How do you think the reappearance of the plane will change the story?

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Lesson 5

Chapters 13 - 16

1. Why did Brian want to make a raft?
 - A. So he could paddle out to the plane
 - B. He wanted to go fishing
 - C. He was pretending to be Tom Sawyer
2. What was Brian hoping to recover from the newly surfaced airplane?
3. Describe how Brian felt about losing his hatchet.
4. What is the meaning of the word "incessant"?
(not to mention chasing away the incessant mosquitoes.)
5. Compare this book to a different one you have read where someone is trying to survive. List two similarities or differences.
6. Is this a fiction or nonfiction book? What helped you decide that?
7. Do you think HATCHET was a good title for this story? Why or why not?
8. What characteristics or traits did you like the most about Brian? Explain why you think that.

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Answer Key

LESSON 1

1. B
2. Brian was going to visit his father.
3. The pilot stopped flying the airplane when he had a heart attack.
4. Abating means to decrease in amount, number, or degree.
5. Brian knew a little about flying an airplane because the pilot had let him try flying the plane earlier.
6. The swarms of attacking mosquitoes and small flies caused Brian to almost cry, his frustration was so great.
7. Answers will vary.

LESSON 2

1. C
2. C
3. Answers will vary.
4. Asset means resource or advantage.
5. B
6. Answers will vary.
7. Answers will vary.

DISCUSSION: Talk about student strengths and have them think, talk, or write down what their own assets are.

LESSON 3

1. Words that the author used that appealed to the sense of smell when he described the porcupine were: it smelled like rot, graves with cobwebs, dust, and old death.
2. B
3. C
4. Dormant means inactive, not actively growing or functioning.
5. Answers will vary.
6. Answers will vary.
7. Some possible benefits that Brian received from the fire were: the mosquitoes and other insects didn't come around, it kept him warm, he could cook his food, and it scared away other animals.

LESSON 4

1. Chapter Thirteen begins forty-two days after the previous chapter.
2. A
3. C
4. Refracts means the bending of a ray of light, heat, or sound when it passes from one medium into another.
5. The correct order is 2, 4, 1, and 3.
6. Answers will vary.
7. When things don't seem to be going the way Brian wants, he stops and thinks about it to see if he can figure a new way to solve the problem.
8. Answers will vary.

LESSON 5

1. A
2. The survival pack was the important item that Brian wanted to salvage from the surfaced airplane.
3. Answers will vary, but Brian probably felt angry at himself and very discouraged when he lost his hatchet.
4. Incessant meant to continue without interruption.

5. Answers will vary.
6. This is a fiction book. Answers will vary as to how they decided that.
7. Answers will vary.
8. Answers will vary.