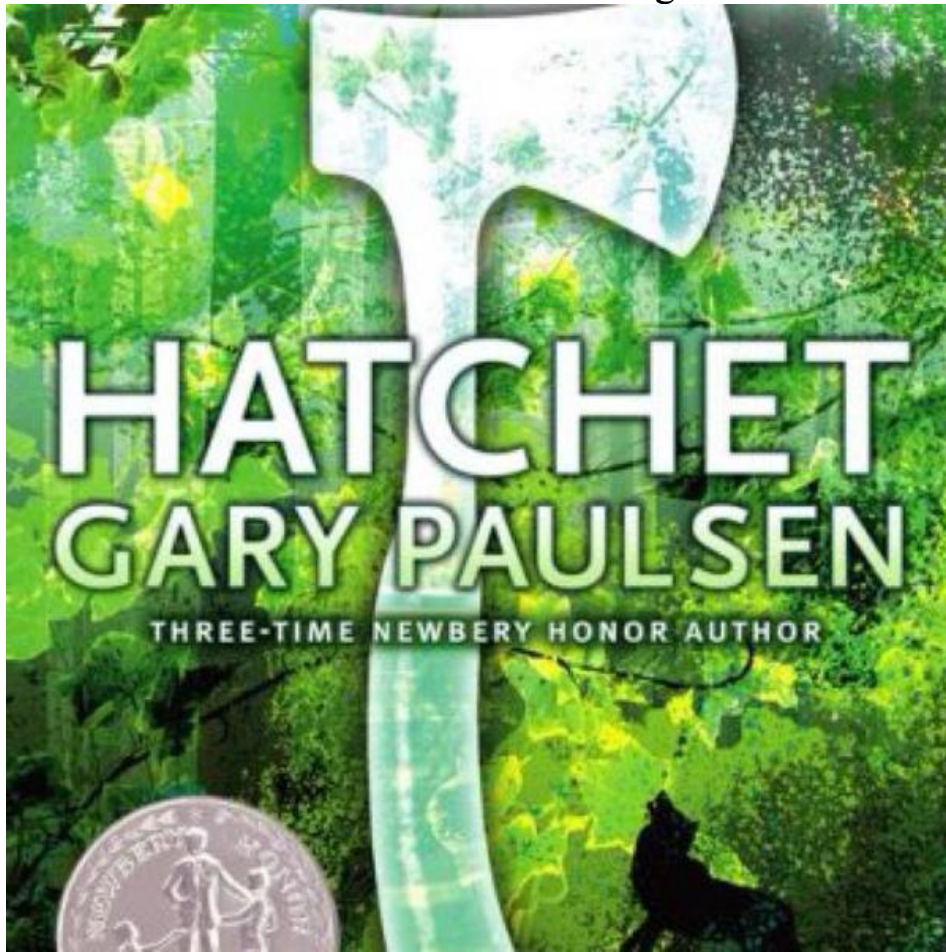


Hatchet
By Gary Paulsen

L-I-T Guide
Literature In Teaching



A Study Guide for Grades 6 and Up
Prepared by Charlotte S. Jaffe & Barbara T. Doherty

Name: _____

Period: _____

Hatchet Anticipation Guide

Next to each statement, write an “A” if you agree or a “D” if you disagree with it next to the “YOU” column. When you are finished, discuss with your group.

After reading the novel, write an “A” if you agree or a “D” if you disagree based on how you think Brian, the main character, would react to each statement. Place your answers next to the “BRIAN” column.

	YOU	BRIAN
If your parents do something to make you angry, you should talk to them about it.		
Secrets should not be told.		
A wild animal will not bother you unless you bother it.		
Feeling sorry for yourself doesn't help anything.		
The best way to learn is from your mistakes.		
It is better to wait and have patience than to rush into things.		
To keep on top of things, stay positive.		
We control what happens in our lives based on our actions.		
Only the strong survive, not the weak.		
Crying or releasing your emotions makes you a stronger person.		

Pre-Reading Activity

Parts of an Airplane

There are many vocabulary words in this story that refer to the parts of an airplane. Locate and label each part (as best as possible) on the picture of the airplane below.

1. Rudder
2. Engine
3. Cockpit
4. Control wheel
5. Dashboard
6. Altimeter
7. Transmitter
8. Throttle
9. Propeller
10. Windshield
11. Fuselage
12. Wings



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Vocabulary

Chapters One and Two

Use the words in the box to complete the sentences below. You may need to use your dictionary

audible pg. 9	compass pg. 16	embarrassing pg. 6	extension pg. 3
grimacing pg. 9	horizon pg. 15	legal pg. 6	lurched pg. 14
massive pg. 12	rigid pg. 10	panic pg. 18	spasm pg. 9
tenderness pg. 9	tundra pg. 6	turbulence pg. 13	vague pg. 22

1. The voice on the long distance call was barely _____.
2. I used my _____ to find the correct direction.
3. The mother lovingly touched her newborn child with _____.
4. The _____ boulder was difficult for the workmen to move.
5. When fire broke out, the crowd didn't _____; they walked to the exits.
6. Mr. Scott needed _____ help to draw his will.
7. If you travel to parts of Alaska, you will see vast areas of treeless _____.
8. In the haze, we could see only a(n) _____ outline of the city
9. John couldn't bend the rod; it was too _____.
10. Looking out toward the _____, we saw the rising sun.
11. It was a(n) _____ moment when she discovered her foolish mistake.
12. Father added a(n) _____ cord so that the plug would reach the receptacle.

Comprehension and Discussion Questions

Chapter One

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your answer.

Question	Answer
1. Why was Brian traveling in a bushplane?	
2. Brian was having an especially difficult time accepting his parents' divorce. Explain the reason.	
3. Why did Brian's mother give him a hatchet? How did Brian feel about the gift? What does the fact that he wore it tell us about his feelings towards her?	
4. Summarize the reason Brian was "stricken with a white-flash of horror."	

Comprehension and Discussion Questions

Chapter Two

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your answer.

Question	Answer
1. Evaluate Brian's first reaction after the pilot's attack. Was his a normal response? How would you have reacted in a similar situation?	
2. How did Brian know a little about how to fly the plane?	
3. Judge Brian's decision to wait for the plane to run out of gas.	
4. What plan did Brian envision that would help him to land safely? What did he do to prepare for the landing?	

EXTRA CREDIT

According to details provided in Chapter 2, what was the total amount of time that Brian was flying in the plane? Show your work in the space below.

Vocabulary

Chapters Three and Four

Use your dictionary to define the following words as they were used in the chapter.

1. abating pg. 36	
2. agony pg. 35	
3. coarse pg. 28	
4. desperately pg. 25	
5. frustration pg. 35	
6. glittering pg. 25	
7. hordes pg. 34	
8. hummocks pg. 37	
9. incredible pg. 29	
10. naturalist pg. 35	
11. remnants pg. 33	
12. spiraling pg. 28	
13. squint pg. 36	
14. vampires pg. 35	
15. wallow pg.26	

Comprehension and Discussion Questions

Chapter Three

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your answer.

Question	Answer
1. Why did Brian want to find a lake directly in front of him?	
2. Evaluate Brian's ability to handle the controls of the plane. Do you think that a boy his age could realistically land a plane under these circumstances? Explain your opinion.	
3. The author provides a sensory description of the crash landing. Make a list of the sensory details that were used; for example, sights and sounds. One example would be the screams of fear and pain.	
4. Explain what happened to Brian at the end of this chapter.	

Comprehension and Discussion Questions

Chapter Four

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your answer.

Question	Answer
1. Describe the secret that was "like a knife cutting into Brian." Why was this thought so upsetting to him?	
2. What new menace plagued Brian with the rising of the sun? How was the problem resolved?	
3. Explain why Brian thought he had both good and bad luck.	
4. Predict what Brian might do to save himself. What would be your first priority?	

Vocabulary

Chapters Five and Six

Match the vocabulary words on the left to the definitions on the right. Place the correct letter on each line.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. amphibious pg. 44 | A. swelling of surface of skin |
| _____ 2. asset pg. 47 | B. wildly excited |
| _____ 3. blister pg. 40 | C. like ice; very cold |
| _____ 4. device pg. 56 | D. woven together |
| _____ 5. diminish pg. 53 | E. narrow shelf |
| _____ 6. frantic pg. 43 | F. able to operate on land or water |
| _____ 7. glacial pg. 53 | G. wickedly; intensely |
| _____ 8. interlaced pg. 61 | H. arousing sorrow |
| _____ 9. jumble pg. 43 | I. something having value |
| _____ 10. ledge pg. 53 | J. grind down; demolish |
| _____ 11. pitiful pg. 46 | K. sudden, sharp pain |
| _____ 12. pulverize pg. 53 | L. mix; confuse |
| _____ 13. twinge pg. 61 | M. something constructed for a purpose |
| _____ 14. viciously pg. 40 | N. lessen |

Comprehension and Discussion Questions

Chapter Five

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your answer.

Question	Answer
1. Brian suffered from great thirst. Why was he reluctant to drink the water? Judge his decision to drink it.	
2. What tool did Brian have with him?	
3. What thought haunted Brian and caused him to panic?	
4. Relate the lesson that Brian learned from his former English teacher. How did he apply this lesson to his situation?	

Comprehension and Discussion Questions

Chapter Six

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your answer.

Question	Answer
1. Brian chose to locate his shelter close to the lake. Explain his reasoning.	
2. Brian was so used to the ready availability of food that he was not prepared to seek it in the wilderness. What did he finally do?	
3. Whom did Brian blame for his predicament? Evaluate his thinking.	
4. Create a word picture of Brian's shelter.	

Vocabulary

Chapters Seven and Eight

An **antonym** is a word that has a meaning opposite to a meaning of another word. For each of the following words, **write an antonym**.

Word	Antonym
1. apparent pg. 72	
2. crude pg. 67	
3. doze pg. 77	
4. fierce pg. 68	
5. gorge pg. 69	
6. imbedded pg. 80	
7. indicated pg. 71	
8. receded pg. 66	
9. slit pg. 65	
10. survival pg. 77	

Comprehension and Discussion Questions

Chapter Seven

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your answer.

Question	Answer
1. What effect did eating so many berries have upon Brian?	
2. Describe the memory that was painful for Brian? Have you ever had a memory that was painful to you? Tell about it.	
3. What sight caused Brian to “do nothing, think nothing”? In your opinion, why wasn’t Brian harmed?	
4. Brian thought that the danger in a city park at night was worse than the danger he faced in the woods. Do you agree or disagree? Explain.	

Hatchet - Five Types of Conflicts

Type	Description of Conflict
Man vs.	
Man vs.	
Man vs.	
Man vs.	
Man vs.	

Comprehension and Discussion Questions

Chapter Eight

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your answer.

Question	Answer
1. What caused Brian to cry until he was all cried out? Have you ever felt this way? Tell about it.	
2. Brian discovered what he believed to be the most important rule of survival. Explain it.	
3. What mistake did Brian make in the use of his hatchet? Why might this have been a costly error?	
4. Brian finally realized a way to make a fire. How did he get his idea?	

Vocabulary

Chapters Nine and Ten

A **synonym** is a word that has a meaning similar to a meaning of another word. For each vocabulary word, circle the synonym—the word that is **most like** the first word in meaning.

1. **blaze pg. 92:** smoke burn red shine
2. **convulse pg. 96:** rattle jumble chatter shake
3. **depression pg. 84:** plateau spot tributary basin
4. **dormant pg. 94:** active immature latent live
5. **enormous pg. 90:** huge serious tiny heavy
6. **focus pg. 85:** photograph arrange watch concentrate
7. **gratified pg. 86:** pleased irritated consoled indulged
8. **ignite pg. 82:** snuff inflame quench lighten
9. **precious pg. 89:** valuable common refined favored
10. **smoldered pg. 84:** erupted fragmented illuminated burned

Comprehension and Discussion Questions

Chapter Nine

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your answer.

Question	Answer
1. Describe Brian's first attempts to make fire. Why were they unsuccessful?	
2. How did Brian use his hatchet?	
3. In what way did Brian's past science lessons come in handy? How did he apply this knowledge to his pursuit of fire?	
4. What was Brian's reaction when he finally achieved his goal? Why did this accomplishment make him feel lonely?	

Comprehension and Discussion Questions

Chapter Ten

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your answer.

Question	Answer
1. Fire brought with it many new advantages for Brian. There was, however, a disadvantage. Explain.	
2. How did Brian's attempts to read the tracks in the sand culminate in an important discovery?	
3. Why did Brian think that "he had never felt so rich somehow"?	
4. Brian chided himself for not focusing on his rescue. Judge his reasoning.	

Vocabulary

Chapters Eleven and Twelve

For each sentence circle the most appropriate definition for the word printed in bold as it is used in the sentence. Use your dictionary to help you.

1. The car came to an abrupt (pg. 111) stop.	screeching sudden sliding
2. The tree was so gnarled (pg. 102) that it could not be used for lumber.	hard bare twisted
3. We walked to the bluff (pg. 101) for a better view.	wall gruff cliff
4. Initially (pg. 101) , we thought it was a good idea.	quickly at first at last
5. He was literally (pg. 102) seven feet tall.	nearly more than really
6. The rams lunged (pg. 105) at each other.	jabbed rushed breathed
7. The sound became fainter (pg. 111) as we listened.	paler weaker recorded
8. The boy was depressed (pg. 98) because of his bad grades.	disheartened angry afraid
9. Brian needed a staggering (pg. 99) amount of wood for the fire.	overwhelming crooked moderate
10. The pathway tapered (pg. 106) toward the top.	narrowed combed crowded
11. Flailing (pg. 105) at the mosquitos was not very effective.	jumping up pushing swinging arms
12. With persistent (pg. 109) effort, Andrew finally reached his goal.	little unsteady steadfast

Comprehension and Discussion Questions

Chapter Eleven

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your answer.

Question	Answer
1. Brian's mind and body had changed. Describe these changes.	
2. Explain Brian's plan for a signal fire.	
3. How did Brian get the idea to catch fish? Evaluate his plan for catching fish.	
4. Many times in this chapter the author writes that "there were things to do." Judge the importance of Brian's having things to keep him occupied.	

Comprehension and Discussion Questions

Chapter Twelve

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your answer.

Question	Answer
1. How did Brian make his fishing spear? Why didn't it work for him? Do you think he did a good job?	
2. Analyze Brian's statement: "Maybe it was always that way, discoveries happened because they needed to happen."	
3. Brian's eating habits had changed. What did he notice about himself?	
4. The mood at the end of this chapter was pessimistic and hopeless. Why? How would you have felt if you had been in Brian's situation?	

Vocabulary

Chapters Thirteen and Fourteen

Define the following words based upon their use in the story. You may need to use your dictionary.

Word	Definition
1. biology (pg. 119)	
2. corrosive (pg. 123)	
3. exulted (pg. 119)	
4. carp (pg. 124)	
5. impaired (pg. 123)	
6. rectify (pg. 121)	
7. refract (pg. 118)	
8. sear (pg. 123)	
9. sulfurous (pg. 123)	
10. vital (pg. 122)	

Comprehension and Discussion Questions

Chapter Thirteen

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your answer.

Question	Answer
1. Brian felt like he was a new person. Where and how did this take place?	
2. Explain refraction. How did the understanding of this phenomenon help Brian catch his first fish?	
3. Brian showed ingenuity in this chapter. Cite examples.	
4. What, do you think, did Brian mean when he said that he was full of tough hope?	

Comprehension and Discussion Questions

Chapter Fourteen

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your answer.

Question	Answer
1. Judge Brian's conclusion that mistakes were more serious in his situation than in the city.	
2. According to Brian, what was the "great, single driving influence in nature"?	
3. What lessons did the skunk teach Brian?	
4. Explain Brian's solution for storing fish.	

Vocabulary

Chapters Fifteen and Sixteen

Alphabetize the words in the vocabulary box. Then use your dictionary to define them.

sarcasm pg. 132	flurry pg. 140	bellowed pg. 148	stabilize pg. 133
clump pg. 131	camouflage pg. 130	incredibly pg. 143	craved pg. 130
paused pg. 139	boughs pg. 144	gusts pg. 146	unduly pg. 148
dung pg. 135	tornado pg. 145	retrieved pg. 140	bounded pg. 130
		Definition	

Comprehension and Discussion Questions

Chapter Fifteen

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your answer.

Question	Answer
1. Describe Brian's method of keeping track of time.	
2. What was it about the foolbirds that drove Brian crazy?	
3. Brian finally figured out the secret to finding the foolbirds. Explain. From Brian's point of view, judge his First Meat.	
4. How, do you think, was it possible for Brian to do these things that he had never done without anyone teaching him?	

Cause & Effect

Several of the decisions that Brian makes or actions he takes, lead to either good or bad consequences (effects).

Cause	Effect
EX: Brian decided to hook his hatchet onto his belt before he got on the plane.	EX: Brian had his hatchet in the woods to help him survive. He used the sparks to make fire. He carved a spear, a bow and arrows.

Comprehension and Discussion Questions

Chapter Sixteen

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your answer.

Question	Answer
1. Explain why Brian said that dipping his hands in the water was nearly the last act of his life.	
2. Brian was once again alone with just his hatchet. Why didn't he feel the same hopelessness as when he first landed?	
3. After the devastation of the tornado, Brian was able to show some humor. Cite the example.	
4. What did Brian discover while measuring the tornado's damage?	

Vocabulary

Chapters Seventeen and Eighteen

Match the vocabulary words on the left to the definitions on the right. Place the correct letter on each line.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. capacity pg. 164 | A. unending; continuous |
| _____ 2. eddy pg. 159 | B. nearly |
| _____ 3. elevator pg. 161 | C. maximum amount held |
| _____ 4. frenzied pg. 162 | D. consistently dependable |
| _____ 5. hacks pg. 162 | E. blocked; thwarted |
| _____ 6. incessant pg. 150 | F. headed pins and bolts |
| _____ 7. instinctive pg. 168 | G. with sorrow |
| _____ 8. pronounced pg. 158 | H. circular current of air or water |
| _____ 9. rivets pg. 159 | I. rough irregular cuts |
| _____ 10. ruefully pg. 155 | J. control surface on airplane |
| _____ 11. stable pg. 155 | K. distinct |
| _____ 12. stymied pg. 156 | L. form of mental image |
| _____ 13. virtually pg. 150 | M. agitated |
| _____ 14. visualize pg. 157 | N. spontaneous, arising from an impulse |

Comprehension and Discussion Questions

Chapter Seventeen

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your answer.

Question	Answer
1. Explain Brian's remark: "I would be rich, so rich of I could get at the pack."	
2. Why did Brian build a raft?	
3. What was Brushpile One?	
4. Summarize Brian's problem at the end of this chapter.	

Comprehension and Discussion Questions

Chapter Eighteen

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your answer.

Question	Answer
1. Think of all that happened from the time Brian first landed to the time he dropped the hatchet and explain this statement: "For all this time...the hatchet had been everything...the hatchet was, had been him."	
2. What important lesson did Brian quickly remember after dropping the hatchet?	
3. Why did Brian save the pieces of aluminum from the fuselage?	
4. What sight made Brian scream in horror?	

Vocabulary

Chapters Nineteen and Epilogue

Use the words in the box to complete the sentences below. You may need to use your dictionary.

antiseptic pg. 172	butane pg. 172	consumed pg. 178	freeze-dried pg. 175
furor pg. 180	game pg. 180	grime pg. 174	magazine pg. 172
marveling pg. 173	matted pg. 174	numb pg. 171	oblivious pg. 171
predictions pg. 180	rummaging pg. 174	scarce pg. 180	unwittingly pg. 178

1. The doctor applied an _____ ointment to the wound.
2. The _____ heater kept the ice off the trees in the orange grove.
3. All of the wood was _____ by the fire; only ashes remained.
4. They ate quail and other wild _____ to stay alive.
5. The home team's win cause a _____; the crowd would not calm down.
6. The boys were _____ in the attic when they found the old map.
7. There was one cartridge left in the rifle's _____.
8. We were _____ to the weather; we didn't even notice the rain.
9. Rain is _____ in the desert.
10. Susan _____ hurt Jill's feelings with her careless remark.

Comprehension and Discussion Questions

Chapter Nineteen

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your answer.

Question	Answer
1. Rate the contents of the bag. List the items in order of importance.	
2. Brian felt changed by the rifle and the lighter. In your opinion, why did he dislike the change?	
3. What did Brian decide to do with the food that was inside the survival bag?	
4. Describe how Brian was rescued.	

Comprehension and Discussion Questions

Chapter Epilogue

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your answer.

Question	Answer
1. Some of the changes Brian underwent were permanent. Explain	
2. Guess how Brian's parents felt upon learning of his rescue.	
3. Why, do you suppose, did Brian keep the secret about his mother's relationship with another man?	
4. Predict the effect this experience will have on Brian's adult life.	