

Hatchet

by

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Questions for discussion and review

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Note: Adapted by Luisa M. Morales-Molina-English Department Colegio Beato CMR.

Chapter 1

As Brian is thinking about things in this chapter, the narration changes location. Sometimes he is remembering his life at home or the trip in the car with his mother. As you are reading, make notes in the margin about where he is.

1. Keep a list of information that you learn about Brian as you are reading: How old is he? What do we know about his family? What kind of life does he usually live?
2. Where is Brian in this chapter? Why is he there? Where is he going? How does he feel about this?
3. Brian thinks about "the secret," but he doesn't tell us what the secret is. What do you think it might be?
4. How many people and what kind of gear are on the airplane?
5. Brian's mother gives him a small hatchet to put on his belt. Why do you think she gives it to him? How does Brian react when his mother gives him the hatchet, and how does he want to react? Why doesn't he react the way he wanted to?
6. What happens to the pilot?

Chapter 2

1. Describe the landscape that the airplane is flying over.
2. How does Brian feel about the pilot?
3. When there is no answer from the radio, Brian thinks about his situation and decides that he has two choices. What are the two choices? What does Brian decide to do, and why does he decide this?
4. What happens at the end of chapter 2?

Chapter 3

1. Where does the plane crash? How does Brian get out? What does he do when he gets out?

Chapter 4

Brian is unconscious at the beginning of this chapter. Then he wakes up and crawls a short distance. He falls asleep and wakes up again.

1. At the beginning, he is having a dream about "the secret." Explain this secret that is tormenting him.
2. This chapter has many descriptions--of feelings, of sights, of sounds. Describe what he is feeling (physically) when he wakes up.

3. What is the problem with the mosquitoes? Why is this so unbelievable to Brian?
4. On another piece of paper, draw a picture of the environment that Brian sees the next day. Write labels on each of the things that he sees. (If you don't want to draw a picture, write a paragraph in your own words that describes his surroundings)
5. Does Brian feel he has good luck or bad luck? Explain your answer.
6. Much of Brian's knowledge about life in the wilderness comes from watching TV or movies. This chapter has two examples of this. What are they?
7. What does Brian hear in his new environment? Why is he surprised about this?

Chapter 5

This chapter talks about Brian's physical needs: thirst and hunger.

1. Brian is incredibly thirsty. Why does he hesitate to drink the water? What happens when he does?
2. Brian gets confused and frustrated. He asks himself, "Where am I?" How does he deal with the frustration and confusion? How does he talk himself out of the panic?
3. Brian is very hungry. How have movies given him an unreal image of finding food in the wilderness?
4. Who is Mr. Perpich? How does he help Brian? What items does Brian list that he has with him?
5. Brian remembers that when the pilot had his heart attack, his right foot jerked down on the rudder pedal. What are the implications of this for Brian's situation?
6. At the end of this chapter, Brian decides that at this time he has two basic necessities. What are they?

Chapter 6

In this chapter, Brian struggles to find the basic necessities from the end of chapter 5.

1. The most important item is food. Explain how he finds the berries. What does he do when he finds them?
2. How does Brian create a shelter for himself?

Chapter 7

1. Explain why Brian wakes up crying "Mother!"
2. What does he think about as he is going back to sleep?

3. Explain what he is thinking when he begins to cry after looking at his reflection in the lake.
4. Summarize the episode with the bear. How does Brian deal with it after it is over?
5. At the end of this chapter, when the rain is pouring down, Brian feels much different from how he had felt in the morning (question #3). Why?

Chapter 8

1. Brian thinks to himself "So fast. So fast things change." What causes him to think this?
2. Again Brian breaks down and cries until he is cried out. Why is he crying? What does he discover after he finishes crying?
3. What message does he get from his dream about his friend Terry and his father?

Chapter 9

1. What are the difficulties Brian encounters when he is trying to make a fire?
2. At the end of this chapter, his mood swings from happy to sad. What causes these two emotions?

Chapter 10

1. How long has Brian been here?
2. Explain why Brian decides to dig up the sand.
3. What does Brian decide to do with the 17 eggs?

Chapter 11

1. Why does Brian feel that it is necessary to clean up his camp area?
2. In what ways has Brian changed since the airplane crash?
3. Many times in this chapter, Brian thinks "There are these things to do." What are some of the different things in this chapter that Brian has to do? Why is it important for him to have *things to do*?
4. Why hasn't Brian thought of catching fish earlier?

Chapter 12

1. Draw a quick sketch of Brian's fish spear. (It looks very different from a typical spear)
2. When he is looking for some wood to make a bow, "he was absolutely terrified by an explosion under his feet." This isn't a real bomb; explain what it is.

3. What is the "persistent whine, like the insects" that he heard?
4. Toward the end of the chapter we read, "all this he saw as he ran for the camp." What does he "see"? What happened? How does he feel?

Chapter 13

This chapter jumps ahead in time several weeks. Then he remembers back into the past and he thinks about how he has changed since he heard the airplane fly away.

1. At the beginning of the chapter, what is he looking for?
2. Suddenly, "something he did not understand had stopped him." He remembers when this happened before. What does he remember? What does he see this time? How does he feel towards it?

in the past:

this time:

3. How much time has passed?
4. What happened to Brian just after the plane flew away? How did he handle it? What two things did he decide?
5. "Mistakes." Why does he want to remember them? What are some of them?
6. At the end of this chapter, he remembers a special celebration. What was he celebrating? When was this?

Chapter 14

1. Why are mistakes more significant now than they were in the city?
2. Describe the skunk story.
3. What two things does he learn from the skunk? How does he take care of these two things?
4. How does he solve the problem of storing the fish?

Chapter 15

1. Explain the two ways Brian records or remembers time.
2. Explain how the foolbirds are frustrating Brian. What does Brian need to do in order to be able to hunt the foolbird?
3. What does Brian learn about patience?

Chapter 16

1. How does Brian feel about himself and about his life at the beginning of this chapter?
2. Explain what happened with the moose. Why does Brian feel grateful at the end of this episode in his life?
3. Suddenly, something else happens, beginning with "The noise awakened him." What is it? How does Brian feel after this episode, compared with the beginning of the chapter?
4. Who is Brian talking to when he says, "Is this the best **you** can do?"
5. What does Brian see in the lake after the tornado? Why does he think he should visit it?

Chapter 17

Brian thinks about the airplane in the lake, but he has many things to do in this chapter. "First things first," he thinks.

1. Make a quick list of the chores he does during the day.
2. What does Brian remember is in the plane?
3. How does Brian make the raft?
4. How does Brian show us that he has learned to be patient?
5. That night, "he went to sleep thinking a kind of reverse question." Explain that reverse question.

Chapter 18

1. What is "it" in these sentences: "**It** went straight down past his legs. He felt **it** bump his foot and then go on down, down into the water and for a second he couldn't understand that he had done **it**."
2. What does he think about when he saw the pilot's head? How does he calm himself?

Chapter 19

1. List each item he found and next to it, list his feelings about that item.
2. Explain what happens (& why) at the end of the chapter.

Epilogue

Explain how Brian is different after he is rescued, compared to before the accident.