



**7th Grade**  
**SUMMER READING COMPREHENSION**  
GUIDED READING QUESTIONS

**"Hatchet"**

By: *Gary Paulsen*

**Chapter 1 Pages: 1 - 12**

**Page 2:** What was the biggest thing that led up to Brian taking the flight he was on? How did he feel about it? What are two lines from the text that support your answer?

1.
2.

**Page 4:** How is Brian feeling about taking the wheel of the plane? How do you know?

**Page 4:** What does the word *slewed* mean, as it is used on page 4?

**Page 8:** Why is Brian on the plane? Where is he headed? Use evidence from the text for your answer.

**Page 12:** What is going on with the Pilot of the small plane? How do you think Brian is feeling seeing this all happen in front of him... while in the air?

**Chapter 2 Pages: 13 - 24**

**Page 15:** How much knowledge does Brian have about flying a plane? Do you think he will be successful at flying the plane?

**Page 17:** How do you think he is feeling having to take the headset off the pilot's head? Why does he have to do it?

**Page 19:** What do you think is happening to the signal of the radio Brian is trying to use to communicate with?

**Page 21:** What were the two choices Brian was left with? Which do you think he will choose and why?

**Page 24:** Give Brian a character trait based on what you have read about him so far. Remember not to use a character feeling, but a trait. Give two examples from the text to support your answer.

Character:	Character Trait:	Proof 1:	Proof 2:
Brian			

**Chapter 3 Pages: 25 - 28**

**Page 25:** Why does Brian feel like he's "going to die" on page 25? How would you be feeling if you were in his shoes?

**Page 26:** Describe what Brian saw out of the windshield of the plane. He describes it as almost looking at a picture

**Page 28:** Fill out the cause-and-effect table below with information from chapter 3.

Cause:	Effect:
The pilot had a heart attack.	
The plane's engine died.	

	<p>“There was a great wrenching. Dust and Dirt blew off the floor into his face so hard he thought there must have been some kind of explosion.”</p>
	<p>Brian swallowed in water.</p>

#### Chapter 4 Pages: 29 - 39

**Page 29:** Chapter four starts with a simile. What two things are being compared? What does the simile mean?

**Page 30:** Based on what you know about “the secret.” What is the secret that Brian knows about his mom? How do you think that affects him as a person, and as her son?

**Page 31:** “When he opened them again it was evening and some of the sharp pain had abated - there were many dull aches - and the crash came back to him fully.” What does the word abated mean?

**Page 33:** Brian is in a lot of pain on page 33, but he is happy about one thing. What is the one thing he is grateful for? Would you feel the same as he did?

**Page 39:** Brian took a look at his surroundings; what do you think he was looking for? Before he could do anything else he found a tree and slept. Why do you think he was so tired still?

#### Chapter 5 Pages: 40 - 51

**Page 41:** Why at the start of the chapter is Brian so thirsty? Do you think it is a good idea for him to drink the water out of the small pond? What may be an effect from him drinking the water?

**Page 43:** What do you think triggered Brian`s brain to seem to start working again?

**Page 43:** The setting of the story has been consistent; Brian has narrowed down his location. What is going to be the setting of probably a large chunk of the story? Describe it.

**Page 47:** What things did Brian have with him that he could use? Whose advice was helping Brian in this chapter? How do you think he will use the advice to his benefit?

**Page 51:** Brian, throughout this chapter has been thinking through the days until his possible rescue. Do you think he will be rescued? If so, how long do you think it will take?

### **Chapter 6 Pages: 52 - 62**

**Page 53:** Why would it be so important for Brian to find a shelter? What would be the benefits of finding / making one?

**Page 55:** What is Brian going to use for a shelter? Why did he consider it his second good luck?

**Page 58:** "Simple. Keep it simple." Why do you think for Brian`s sake it is important to keep things simple? What will this help Brian with?

**Page 59:** How were the berries that Brian found? Did he enjoy them? Explain his feelings towards the first food he was able to find

**Page 62:** Brian finally fell asleep. What will the next day bring? Do you think he will find a way to make fire?

### **Chapter 7 Pages: 63 – 73**

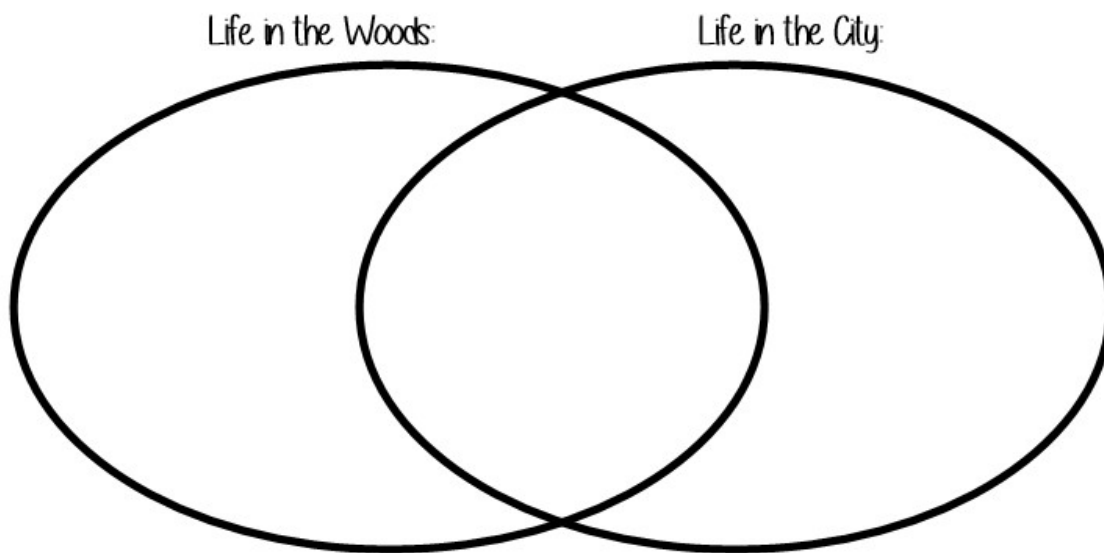
**Page 63:** What effect did the berries Brian found have on his body? How do you think that will affect what he eats in the future?

**Page 65:** What kind of shape is Brian in? How do you think he is doing his first few days out in the woods, alone?

**Page 69:** Brian finds raspberries and feels that “he had never tasted anything as good.” Do you think this is true? Why does Brian feel this way about the raspberries?

**Page 71:** What was the outcome of Brian`s interaction with the bear? Do you think he expected to see such a creature face to face?

**Page 73:** Brian mentions the city and how it compares to being in the woods. Based on what you have read so far, use the Venn diagram below to compare and contrast life in the city to life in the woods. Try to have at least two ideas in each column.



### Chapter 8 Pages: 74 - 81

**Page 74:** Why is Brian so fearful on page 74? What from his past in the woods so far has made him feel this way?

**Page 75:** Based on the clues from the author, what do you think was the thing that came into Brian`s shelter in the woods?

**Page 77:** Why was Brian on the top of page 77 overcome with emotion?

**Page 77:** What lesson did Brian learn on page 77? What is theme we could take away from chapter 8 that the author is trying to teach us?

**Page 80:** What did Brian realize after he woke up from his dream? What was his key to fire? How was he going to make it? If he is successful how will this be important for him?

**Chapter 9 Pages: 82 - 88**

**Page 82:** What does the author mean by, "Brian found it was a long way from sparks to fire?"

**Page 86:** In the chart below list five different things Brian had to do before he was successful at getting a fire lit?

Brian`s Attempt at making Fire:
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

**Page 86:** List three-character feelings that Brian had when he finally found success at making a fire?

**Page 87:** Why did Brian suggest that the fire was his "friend?" How will this fire change his way of life in the woods?

**Chapter 10 Pages: 89 - 97**

**Page 90:** How was Brian thinking ahead at the start of the chapter? What did he have to do to make sure he would be successful over night?

**Page 90:** Something so simple as the fire and the smoke keeping the mosquitoes away lifted Brian`s spirits. Why did something so simple do this for him? What does this tell you about his life right now?

**Page 93:** Based on the clues from the text what do you suppose the animal was that came to the sand in the middle of the night? What may Brian find in the sand? What impact will this make to his survival?

**Page 95:** What was the problem with his knew food source?

**Page 97:** At the end of the chapter it says, “he had to keep hoping.” Why do you think Hope is so important to Brian at the end of the chapter? What has hope done for him so far in the story?

### **Chapter 11 Pages: 98 - 104**

**Page 99:** Why was it so important for Brian to have something to do, and keep busy?

**Page 100:** What was Brian becoming at the end of page 99? How did he change? His body was healing, and he was adjusting to his new way of life. Explain.

**Page 104:** Brian realized in this chapter that he was looking above the water but not below it. How did this new way of thinking change how he could eat in the future? Were his attempts at catching fish successful the first time?

### **Chapter 12 Pages: 105 - 112**

**Page 106:** Do you think Brian felt his first attempt at a fishing spear was a failure? Why or why not?

**Page 108:** Since the plane crash to now, how has Brian grown as a character? What things has he had to overcome to get to where he is now... still surviving in the wilderness?

**Page 109:** “There was a tree there with long branches that seemed straight and when he pulled on one of them and let go it had an almost vicious snap to it.” What does the word vicious mean as it is used in this sentence from the text?

**Page 110:** Brian was very concentrated on making a bow and arrow, but when he heard a faint plane engine his concentration broke and was then concentrated on something completely different. Why was that? What do you think Brian thinks about the plane?

**Page 112:** How was Brian feeling at the end of chapter 12? Why?

### **Chapter 13 Pages: 113 - 120**

**Page 114:** Why did Brian call the birds he was looking for, “foolbirds?”

**Page 114:** Make a prediction before reading on to page 115. How is Brian going to fair with both a mother bear and her cubs and a hungry wolf looking down upon Brian and the bears?

**Page 115:** The first few chapters of the story moved through only a few days' worth of time. We read on page 115 that Brian has now been in the woods for forty-seven days. Does this change your view of Brian and how he is doing? Why do you think the author chose to fast forward time a few weeks ahead? What was the author trying to show?

**Page 117:** Explain the metaphor on the top of page 117, “The plane passing changed him, the disappointment cut him down and made him knew.”

**Page 118:** What does the word infuriating mean? Why was Brian feeling this way?

### **Chapter 14 Pages: 121 - 128**

**Page 121:** How would a mistake impact Brian as he lives in the woods? How does that compare to when he would make a mistake living in the city? What was the difference?

**Page 123:** What was the negative effect of Brian throwing sand at the skunk in his house during the middle of the night?

**Page 124:** What is another lesson Brian had to learn the hard way on page 124? What will he do differently in the upcoming days, so this does not happen again?

**Page 125:** Why did Brian spend so much time rebuilding his shelter?



Page 128: At the end of the chapter, it says that “he didn’t know how sick of fish he would get”. Why do you think the author wrote that at the end of the chapter?

**Chapter 15 Pages: 129 - 137**

**Page 131:** What was Brian, on the day of First Meat so determined to get a foolbird?

**Page 133:** What was the secret key in catching the foolbirds? Why was this the secret key?

**Page 135:** We have seen Brian grow over the course of the story. We have now read in chapter 15, that after many failed attempts, he was successful in catching his first foolbird. Give Brian a new Character trait and give two examples from the text to support your answer.

Character	Character Trait:	Proof 1:	Proof 2:
Brian			

**Page 137:** Besides a good taste, why else do you think Brian never tasted anything as fine as his first bite of the bird?

**Chapter 16 Pages: 138 - 149**

**Page 138:** Why does Brian measure the time by the big events that happen to him (First Meat Day, First Rabbit Day, First Arrow Day, etc...)?

**Page 142:** Explain in your own words how the moose reacted to Brian. Why do you think the moose did those things to Brian? What was the moose probably trying to do?

**Page 145:** Brian’s bad luck continued on page 145, at first Brian thought there was some animal coming to get him, but it turned out to be something possibly more destructive. What was it and how do you think this is going to affect Brian?

### Brian`s Surroundings

Positives:	Negatives:

### Chapter 17 Pages: 150 - 160

**Page 151:** Why did Brian have an easier time getting himself and his campsite established or built? What is proof from the text that supports your answer, list two sentences.

**Page 151:** Why does Brian compare the storm to a giant with a meat grinder?

**Page 152:** Brian says again he would be rich if he got the survival pack from the back of the crashed plane. What does he mean by “he would be rich?”

**Page 156:** Select the best meaning of the word *stymied* as it is used in the middle of page 156.

- a. Mad/upset
- b. Prevent or hinder the progress of
- c. Happy and Cheerful
- d. Giving up, completely lost

**Page 160:** In your own words describe what kind of time Brian was having trying to get to the plane. Why do you think he didn't give up when things got tough?

### Chapter 18 Pages: 161 - 170

**Page 162:** What is the significance of the hatchet Brian has had with him the entirety of the book? Why do you think the author decided to name the story *Hatchet*? How does Brian feel that he dropped it into the bottom of the lake?

**Page 165:** Brian yet again didn't let a small obstacle like dropping the hatch into the water stop him from being successful. What does that show you about his character? Do you think he was like this when he didn't live in the woods?

**Page 166:** Why might Brian be uncomfortable going into the plane?

**Page 170:** Make a prediction, what do you think will be in the survival pack? Do you think whatever is in the bag going to be worth his long endeavor to get it from the plane? Why or why not?

### **Chapter 19 Pages: 171 - 177**

**Page 173:** Brian is excited about his new "riches" he found in the survival bag from the plane, but he is also having a feeling of resistance to use the new equipment. Why do you think that is?

**Page 175:** Why do you think Brian decided not to be careful with his food right away but have a feast instead?

**Page 176:** How do you think Brian is feeling about the plane coming to rescue him? How would have you felt?

**Page 177:** Did you like the ending of the story? MAKE SURE AND READ THE EPILOGUE!

**END OF BOOK:** Did you enjoy the book as a whole? Why or why not?