

# Hatchet Discussion Questions By Chapter

## Chapter Questions **Hatchet**

### Chapter 1

1. Describe the setting at the beginning of the story.
2. How old is Brian Robeson?
3. Why is Brian unable to carry on a conversation with the pilot?
4. With what single word did his thinking always begin?
5. What was "The Secret"?
6. Why is the pilot rubbing his shoulder?
7. What has Brian's father designed or invented?
8. Where is his father presently working?
9. What would have happened if Brian had gone through regular airport security in today's world?
10. Explain how chapter one ends.

**Vocabulary:** consuming, copilot, drone, shattering, rudder, banked, lurched, lashed, wincing, hokey, spasm, jolts, thrumming

### Chapter 2

1. How did Brian initially react to the situation?
2. What motivated Brian to finally attempt to fly the plane?
3. Explain how Brian called for help and describe what happened.
4. What would eventually happen to the plane?
5. Why did Brian think that the best place to set down the plane was the edge of the lake?
6. Describe what happened immediately after the plane's engine coughed and died.

**Vocabulary:** turbulence, procedures, C.P.R., ultimately, swooped, altimeter, headset, wrenching, static, transmission, frustration, throttle, hurtling, rebelled, clearing, intervals, visualize

**Hatchet discussion questions by chapter** are essential for educators and readers looking to delve deeper into Gary Paulsen's novel, "Hatchet." This riveting story follows the journey of Brian Robeson, a young boy who survives a plane crash and faces the challenges of living alone in the Canadian wilderness. Each chapter presents significant themes, character development, and pivotal moments that can lead to rich discussions. This article provides a comprehensive list of discussion questions organized by chapter to enhance understanding and engagement with the text.

## Chapter 1: The Crash

In the opening chapter, readers are introduced to Brian and his internal struggles, including his feelings about his parents' divorce.

- What emotions does Brian experience during the flight, and how do they foreshadow his later challenges?
- How does the author use descriptive language to convey the setting and Brian's state of mind?
- What significance does the pilot's heart attack have on the story's progression?

## **Chapter 2: The Wilderness**

After the crash, Brian finds himself alone in the wilderness, which introduces themes of survival and self-reliance.

- What are Brian's immediate reactions after the crash, and how do they reflect his character?
- What does Brian's initial assessment of his situation reveal about his survival instincts?
- How does the author illustrate the contrast between Brian's previous life and his new reality?

## **Chapter 3: The First Night**

Brian spends his first night in the wild, struggling with fear and isolation.

- How does Brian's emotional state change throughout the chapter?
- What survival skills does Brian begin to develop, and how do they contribute to his character growth?
- Discuss the significance of the moose and the bear encounters in this chapter.

## **Chapter 4: Food and Shelter**

Brian learns the vital importance of food and shelter for his survival.

- What strategies does Brian use to find food, and how do they demonstrate his ingenuity?
- How does Brian's mindset shift from despair to determination in this chapter?
- Discuss the importance of the shelter Brian creates and what it symbolizes in his journey.

## **Chapter 5: The Tornado**

A tornado ravages Brian's makeshift camp, forcing him to confront the unpredictable forces of nature.

- How does the tornado serve as a metaphor for Brian's internal struggles?
- What lessons does Brian learn about resilience and adaptability through this experience?
- How does this event affect Brian's outlook on survival?

## **Chapter 6: The Hunt for Food**

Brian becomes more adept at surviving and learns to hunt for food.

- What techniques does Brian use to catch fish, and how does this experience change him?
- In what ways does this chapter highlight the theme of perseverance?
- Discuss the role of Brian's memories of his father in motivating him during this chapter.

## **Chapter 7: The Fire**

The ability to create fire becomes a turning point in Brian's survival.

- Why is the fire so significant to Brian, both practically and symbolically?
- What challenges does Brian face in his quest to create fire, and how does he overcome them?
- How does the fire change Brian's emotional state and sense of security?

## **Chapter 8: The Voice**

Brian begins to hear a voice in his mind, which represents his inner thoughts and doubts.

- What does the voice symbolize in the context of Brian's journey?
- How does this psychological element enhance the reader's understanding of Brian's character?
- Discuss how the voice influences Brian's decision-making and survival strategies.

## **Chapter 9: The Moose Attack**

A moose attacks Brian, and he must confront the dangers of the wilderness.

- How does the moose encounter demonstrate the unpredictability of nature?
- What does this incident reveal about Brian's growth as a character?
- How does Brian respond to fear in this chapter compared to earlier chapters?

## **Chapter 10: The Rescue**

Brian finally finds hope for rescue, marking a pivotal moment in his journey.

- What emotions does Brian experience upon seeing the plane, and how do they reflect his character development?
- Discuss the significance of Brian's decision-making process when he spots the plane.

- How does this chapter encapsulate the themes of hope and survival?

## Chapter 11: Reflection

As Brian reflects on his journey, he evaluates his transformation and the lessons learned.

- What insights does Brian gain about himself and the world around him?
- How does this chapter tie together the various themes presented throughout the novel?
- Discuss the importance of self-discovery in Brian's story and how it impacts his future.

## Conclusion

Utilizing **Hatchet discussion questions by chapter** can significantly enrich the reading experience. These questions encourage critical thinking and deepen comprehension of the novel's themes, character development, and narrative structure. By engaging with these discussion points, readers can foster a more profound appreciation for Gary Paulsen's work and the universal themes of survival, resilience, and self-discovery that resonate throughout the story. Whether used in a classroom setting or for personal reflection, these questions serve as a valuable tool for exploring the complexities of "Hatchet."

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What are the key survival skills that Brian learns in Chapter 1 of 'Hatchet'?

In Chapter 1, Brian learns the importance of staying calm and assessing his surroundings after the plane crash. He begins to understand the need for basic survival skills like finding shelter and water.

### How does Brian's emotional state evolve throughout Chapter 2?

In Chapter 2, Brian experiences a mix of fear and determination. He feels overwhelmed by his situation but also begins to cultivate a sense of resilience as he contemplates the need to survive.

## **What significant event occurs in Chapter 3 that impacts Brian's survival?**

In Chapter 3, Brian faces a pivotal moment when he discovers the importance of fire. He realizes that fire can provide warmth, protection, and the ability to cook food, which is crucial for his survival.

## **How does Brian's relationship with his parents influence his actions in Chapter 4?**

In Chapter 4, Brian reflects on his parents' divorce, which drives him to push through his struggles. His memories of his mother and father motivate him to keep fighting for survival and find hope.

## **What lessons about self-reliance does Brian learn by the end of Chapter 5?**

By the end of Chapter 5, Brian learns to rely on himself for survival. He gains confidence in his ability to gather food and make decisions independently, which is a significant turning point in his character development.

## **What role does nature play in Brian's transformation in Chapters 6 and 7?**

In Chapters 6 and 7, nature becomes both a challenge and a teacher for Brian. He learns to respect the natural world, adapting to its rhythms and using its resources, which fosters his growth and resilience.

## **How does Brian's perspective on life change by the end of the book?**

By the end of the book, Brian's perspective shifts dramatically. He emerges from his ordeal with a deeper understanding of himself, a newfound appreciation for life, and a sense of gratitude for the lessons learned through his struggles.

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