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### Before You Read

#### Hatchet Chapters 6-12

#### **FOCUS ACTIVITY**

When was the last time that you learned something from a book, from television, or from a movie and used that knowledge in your own life?

#### **Discuss**

Most people read books, watch television, or see movies for entertainment. Just because books, television programs, and movies are entertaining, however, does not mean they are not informative. Talk with several classmates about what you have learned from books, television shows, or movies.

#### Setting a Purpose

Read to find out how Brian applies what he has learned from television and movies to his own difficult situation.

#### **BACKGROUND**

#### The North American Black Bear

The black bear is the most common bear in North America. Some scholars say that there may be around 750,000 black bears living in the forests of Canada, the United States, and northern Mexico. Black bears can grow up to five feet tall and usually weigh between 135 and 350 pounds. Most adult bears have a smooth, short-haired black coat, although some may have a chocolate brown or silver gray coat. They are excellent tree climbers and can run very fast—up to twenty-five miles an hour. A black bear's sense of smell is far sharper than either its sight or its hearing. Black bears will eat almost anything, including meat and plants. Mostly, they eat grass, berries, mushrooms, and acorns. The garbage dumps and coolers of campers can provide treats as well.

#### Did You Know?

There are two main ways to produce fire—by friction and by percussion. The friction method involves creating enough heat from friction to ignite, or light, the surrounding burnable material, or kindling. One common method of starting a fire with friction is called the fire-drill method. The fire builder creates a small pit or groove in a large stick or log, which is laid on the ground. Kindling is placed right around the pit. Then the fire builder places the tip of a smaller stick in the pit and rotates the stick rapidly by rolling it between his or her palms. The percussion method involves striking two objects together to create a spark. Striking flint against flint or steel against flint can create sparks to light kindling.

#### VOCABULARY PREVIEW

dormant [dôr 'mənt] adj. asleep; inactive

eddy [ed 'e v. to move in a current contrary to the main current

flue [flü] n. a passage for allowing flame and smoke to escape

gratify [grat'ə fī] v. to please; to satisfy

ruefully [roo 'fal le] adv. with regret

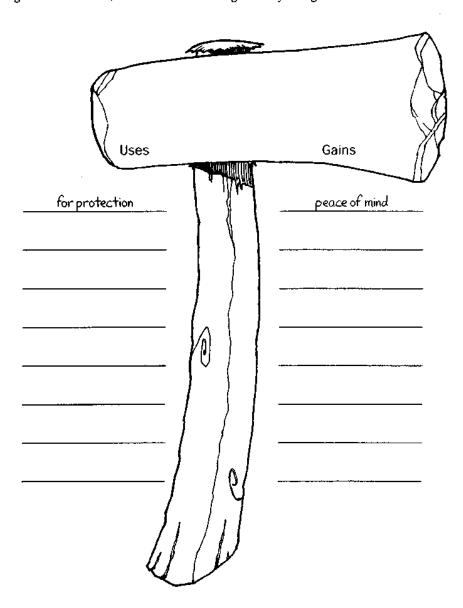
staff [staf] n. a stick carried for support while walking

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# Active Reading

#### Hatchet Chapters 6-12

As he sets up camp and settles in, Brian uses his hatchet for a variety of purposes and in several different ways. In the left-hand column, write down each way in which Brian uses his hatchet. In the right-hand column, write down what he gained by using it.



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Name		Date	Class
Re	espondii	ng	
Hato	het Chapters 6-1	2	
Personal Response How did you react to what I our mind at the end of cha			nat went through
nalyzing Literature ecall and Interpret I. Where does Brian find s	helter? Why does he co	onsider the find	lucky?
2. What does Brian see ame experience?	ong the raspberry bush	es? What does h	e learn from this
		44	
<ol> <li>What wild visitor helps I the fire mean to Brian?</li> </ol>		build a fire? Ho	w? What does
			······

Name	Date	Class
Responding  Hatchet Chapters 6-	12	
Analyzing Literature (continued)  Evaluate and Connect  4. What do you learn about Brian from his dreat learned from other parts of the story?	ms and memories that you h	ave not

	learned from other parts of the story?
_	What I have been been been been been been been be
J.	What do you think Brian means when he tells himself that self-pity doesn't work?
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#### Literature and Writing

#### **Expressions from Brian**

Suppose that Brian has a pencil. To help sort out his feelings about his parents, he writes to one of them on a piece of birch bark. Write the letter that Brian might write to his mother or his father. Keep in mind the issues and the details that are revealed in the novel. Remember, too, that for certain reasons, Brian does not want to tell his father the Secret.

## **Extending Your Response**Literature Groups

Review your responses to the **Focus Activity** and consider again what you have learned from reading books and watching television programs or movies. Then work with your group to find passages in which Brian uses his knowledge from books, television, and movies. How does he apply what he has learned to new situations? Discuss how being able to apply old skills to new situations can be helpful in school.

#### **Art Connection**

As Brian gets acquainted with his surroundings, you, the reader, do too. Chapters 6-12 offer descriptions of the lake, the woods, and Brian's camp. Review the chapters for details. Then sketch or draw some portion of the setting. Your scene may be drawn from a bird's-eye view, like a map; or it may be drawn as Brian would have seen it. In either case, be true to the details presented in the chapters, and then add other details from your own imagination.





Save your work for your portfolio.

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