

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 'ē] *v.* to move in a current contrary to the main current

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

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

ruefully [rōō 'fəl lē] *adv.* with regret

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

Name _____ Date _____ Class _____

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.

Uses	Gains
for protection	peace of mind
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Copyright © by The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

Responding

Hatchet Chapters 6–12

Personal Response

How did you react to what happens to Brian in chapters 6–12? What went through your mind at the end of chapter 12?

Analyzing Literature

Recall and Interpret

1. Where does Brian find shelter? Why does he consider the find lucky?

2. What does Brian see among the raspberry bushes? What does he learn from this experience?

3. What wild visitor helps Brian figure out how to build a fire? How? What does the fire mean to Brian?

Responding

Hatchet Chapters 6–12

Analyzing Literature (continued)

Evaluate and Connect

4. What do you learn about Brian from his dreams and memories that you have not learned from other parts of the story?

5. What do you think Brian means when he tells himself that self-pity doesn't work?

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.



Copyright © by The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.



Save your work for your portfolio.