

Before You Read

Hatchet Chapters 13–19 and Epilogue

FOCUS ACTIVITY

What are your greatest assets? How might these assets help you succeed in life?

Journal

In your journal, list a few of your personal attributes of which you are proud. Explain how each attribute might be an asset to you in the future.

Setting a Purpose

Read to find out what personal assets Brian discovers and how they help him.

BACKGROUND

Did You Know?

The part of a tornado that touches the ground can be a few yards wide or many hundreds of yards wide. The funnel of a tornado may simply “bounce” on the ground, or it may race along the ground for miles. The funnel is made visible by the dust picked up by the whirling winds and by the water droplets at its core.

The cause of a tornado is still not fully understood. Meteorologists do know that tornadoes are always connected with strong atmospheric movements, such as strong updrafts and major weather fronts. The speed of the whirling winds of a tornado is typically around three hundred miles per hour, but the winds of very strong storms have been clocked at more than five hundred miles per hour. In the United States, most tornadoes occur in early spring. To the north, in Canada, tornado season is a bit later, falling in early to mid summer.

Light Science

Brian makes a great discovery while he is trying to catch fish one day—light refraction. Here is how it works. A substance that allows light to shine through it is called transparent. Air and water are both transparent substances. When light passes through one transparent substance to another, it is refracted, or bent. That is, the ray of light actually changes direction. For a simple demonstration, fill a clear glass half full of water. Place the handle of a spoon or a fork in the glass. View the glass from the side, and see how the handle appears to bend at the point at which it enters the water. Refraction occurs because light travels at different speeds in air and in water. In air, light travels at about 186,000 miles per second. In water, light travels at about 139,000 miles per second. When light rays slow down, objects appear to bend.

VOCABULARY PREVIEW

corrosive [kə rō' sɪv] *adj.* having the power to weaken or destroy gradually

fuselage [fū' sə lāzh] *n.* the central body portion of an airplane

propel [prə pel'] *v.* to drive or push forward

sear [sēr] *v.* to burn

Active Reading

Hatchet Chapters 13-19 and Epilogue

As Brian learns how to survive in the wilderness, he becomes aware that he is different from the person he was when he began his trip. He notices differences in the way the "new Brian" thinks and gets things done. Record some of the changes that he notices.

What the Old Brian Would Have Done	What the New Brian Does
fear wolves	stands, watches, and nods

Responding

Hatchet Chapters 13–19 and Epilogue

Personal Response

Were you surprised by the events described in the Epilogue? Did you wish events had turned out differently? Explain.

Analyzing Literature

Recall and Interpret

1. What tools does Brian make and for what does he use them? How does this accomplishment make Brian feel about himself and his situation?

2. In what two ways does Brian measure time? Which way has the most meaning for him and why?

3. What causes Brian to have to rebuild his shelter twice? Why does Brian spend so much time on rebuilding?

Responding

Hatchet Chapters 13–19 and Epilogue

Analyzing Literature (continued)

Evaluate and Connect

4. The author spends more than two chapters describing Brian's trip out to the plane and back. What effect does this description have on the reader?

5. Why might Brian have mixed feelings about using some of the items in the survival pack?

Literature and Writing

Personal Best

How might Brian answer the **Focus Activity** question? In a few paragraphs, describe Brian's best personal attributes and how these attributes help him survive his ordeal in the wilderness.

Extending Your Response

Literature Groups

Through the process of trial and error, Brian learns how to survive in the wilderness. Together as a group, trace Brian's trials and errors. Skim the novel to find times when Brian makes a mistake, suffers the consequences, and then learns a new skill as a result of his mistake. Present and explain your findings to others in your class.

Learning for Life

During his weeks at the lake, Brian figures out how to do many things. Write instructions for one of the things that Brian learns—for example, making a bow and arrow, fishing with a spear, or building a good shelter. Include information about what materials to use and what not to use. In your instructions, add reminders to your readers about the necessity of being patient.



Copyright © by The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.



Save your work for your portfolio.