

Before You Read

Hatchet Chapters 1–5

FOCUS ACTIVITY

How do you get motivated to do something that seems almost impossible?

Quickwrite

Think of a time when you needed to finish a challenging task, like solving a tricky math problem or puzzle. Quickwrite for five minutes about the situation. Then reflect on what you have written. How did you resolve the problem? What motivated you to finish it?

Setting a Purpose

Read to see how Brian becomes motivated to help himself.

BACKGROUND

Did You Know?

A heart attack is often caused by a coronary thrombosis. The word *coronary* means “of or relating to the heart.” The word *thrombosis* means “the formation of a blood clot (thrombus) in the heart or in a blood vessel.” A heart attack occurs when a blood clot blocks one of the arteries that bring blood to the heart. Without a constant blood supply, heart muscle can be damaged. In a minor heart attack, the victim may experience only chest pain. In a very severe heart attack, the heart muscle stops working altogether.

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is a first-aid procedure for heart-attack victims. Its goal is to keep some blood flowing through a victim’s body and to supply the victim with oxygen. Pressing on a victim’s chest about once per second forces blood through the heart and into the arteries, allowing blood to flow into the body. Releasing the pressure allows blood to fill the heart again. Performing mouth-to-mouth resuscitation about every thirty seconds gives the lungs—and, therefore, the rest of the body—a fresh supply of oxygen. Without a supply of oxygen, a person who stops breathing, for whatever reason, will die within four to six minutes.

VOCABULARY PREVIEW

amphibious [am fib’ ē əs] *adj.* able to function on both land and water

audible [ô’ də bəl] *adj.* able to be heard

hummocks [hum’ əks] *n.* small, rounded hills

turbulence [tur’ byə ləns] *n.* irregular air motion, especially as felt by airplane passengers

wince [wints] *v.* to shrink back; to flinch

Responding

Hatchet Chapters 1-5

Personal Response

How did you react to Brian's thoughts and actions? Do you think that he is sensible or unreasonable? Explain your answer.

Analyzing Literature

Recall and Interpret

1. Why is Brian visiting his father in Canada? How does Brian feel about his mother?

2. What is Brian's plan for landing the plane? What conclusions can you draw about Brian from the actions he takes before the crash?

3. What lesson does Brian recall from Mr. Perpich, his English teacher? How does that lesson help Brian as he sits beside the lake?

Responding

Hatchet Chapters 1–5

Analyzing Literature (continued)

Evaluate and Connect

4. Sometimes Brian's thoughts go back to an earlier time, when he was with his mother. What effect do these "breaks" have on the story?

5. Are Brian's reactions to the pilot's death and the crash realistic? Does Brian seem like a real thirteen-year-old? Explain your answer.

Literature and Writing

Positive Thinking

Many people believe that if they have a positive attitude, good things will happen. They believe that people with negative attitudes somehow prevent good things from happening. Write an editorial in which you support the "power of positive thinking." Use Brian's experience and your response to the **Focus Activity** as examples of how positive thinking can help people. At the conclusion of your editorial, encourage people to adopt positive thoughts and to see what happens.

Extending Your Response

Literature Groups

In the story, the author often relates events or mentions details that become important later on. For example, the pilot allows Brian to steer the plane. At first, it seems like a minor event. Later, it helps Brian survive. Find other passages in which details are mentioned that become important later in this section of the novel. Discuss how this method of introducing ideas and topics helps readers follow the story.

Learning for Life

Suppose that you are part of a rescue team that arrives the morning after Brian wakes up from the crash. He tells you what happened, and you write an incident report. Based on the events as they are told in the novel, write such a report. Remember that the incident report is limited to the facts of the crash. Do not include Brian's emotions or your own guesses about what happened—just the facts.



Save your work for your portfolio.