

Hatchet – Discussion Questions

General Questions:

Did you enjoy the book (or whatever part you read)? Why or why not?

How does Brian's experience and eventual survival change him? How is he different at the end of the book than he was at the beginning?

What were the most important character traits Brian had to rely on to survive in the wild?

What does the hatchet itself symbolize? Why did the author pick this as the title of the book? What would have been other good titles?

In-Depth Questions:

What is the secret Brian learns at the beginning of the book and why is it so difficult to absorb? Should kids have to keep secrets like that from adults or other kids? Why is this so destructive?

When Brian discovers the rifle in the survival pack what does he do? Why does he react this way? What would you have done?

Even though Brian is the main character in the book, the author decided to have a third person be the narrator and tell the story. Did you think this was unusual? Did it confuse you or would you have rather had Brian tell the story directly?

What advice did Brian's English teacher give him in school and how important did it turn out to be? What advice have you received in school that you think will stay with you for your whole life?