

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Use with the book:  
**Hatchet** by Gary Paulsen

## Hatchet: Chapter 18–Epilogue

1. When Brian loses his hatchet in the lake, he says, *"The hatchet was, had been him."* What does he mean by this, and why is the loss so significant to him? Consider the importance of the hatchet throughout the story.

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3. What has happened to the pilot's body, and how does Brian respond to seeing it?
- a. The body has been eaten by wildlife and is completely gone, which makes Brian feel relieved.
  - b. The body is missing from the plane, and Brian assumes it sank to the bottom, making him feel at ease.
  - c. The body has been eaten by fish and is mostly bones, which causes Brian to panic and get sick.
  - d. The body is still perfectly intact, which makes Brian panic underwater.

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4. What are some of the items Brian finds in the survival pack?
- a. a sleeping bag, an air mattress, a life-jacket, and an emergency transmitter
  - b. a rifle, a sleeping bag, clean clothes, an air mattress, and a cellphone
  - c. an emergency transmitter, a hat, a sleeping bag, and cooking pots
  - d. a life-jacket, fishing gear, animal traps, clean clothes, and a cellphone
5. How many hours did it take Brian to retrieve the survival pack, and what does it show about his character?
- a. Almost two hours; it shows he is mature.
  - b. One hour; it shows he is skilled.



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7. How long has it been revealed that Brian was stranded for? How long ago did they stop searching? Why do you think the search was called off?

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## Hatchet: Chapter 18–Epilogue

8. Chapter 19 ends with Brian saying to his rescuer, *“Would you like something to eat?”* What’s the irony in this question, and how does it illustrate how much Brian’s character has evolved since the beginning of the book?

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10. At the end of the novel, readers learn that Brian never tells his father about “the Secret.” Why do you think he chooses to keep it to himself?

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## Hatchet: Chapter 18–Epilogue

1. When Brian loses his hatchet in the lake, he says, *"The hatchet was, had been him."* What does he mean by this, and why is the loss so significant to him? Consider the importance of the hatchet throughout the story.

**Answers may vary. An example is:**

**It was a devastating loss because**



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2.

3.



**c. The body has been eaten by fish and is mostly bones, which causes Brian to panic and get sick.**

**d. The body is still perfectly intact, which makes Brian panic underwater.**

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4. What are some of the items Brian finds in the survival pack?
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  - d. a life-jacket, fishing gear, animal traps, clean clothes, and a cellphone

5.

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6.

7.

Brian was stranded for 54 days, and they stopped searching. "They quit looking, a month, no, almost two months ago." The search was likely called off because everyone assumed Brian was dead.

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## Hatchet: Chapter 18–Epilogue

8. Chapter 19 ends with Brian saying to his rescuer, *"Would you like something to eat?"* What's the irony in this question, and how does it illustrate how much Brian's character has evolved since the beginning of the book?

Answers may vary. An example is: It's ironic because he doesn't seem to care about



9.

10.

Answers may vary: Brian has matured after his survival experience. He understands that revealing the Secret won't change anything about his parents' divorce and would likely only hurt his father. This choice shows how much Brian has grown from his time alone in the wilderness. He now knows what truly matters and is more thoughtful about how his actions affect others.