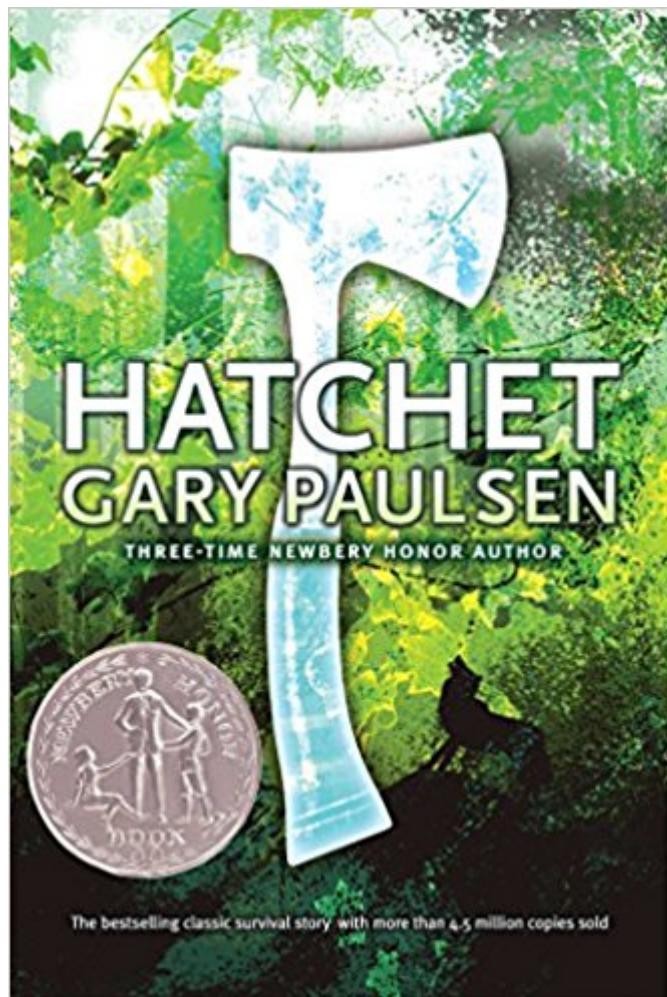


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# Hatchet



## **Synopsis**

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the Canadian wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 1020L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 208 pages

Publisher: Atheneum/Richard Jackson Books; Reissue edition (April 1, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0689840926

ISBN-13: 978-0689840920

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 3,164 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #32,781 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Marriage & Divorce #16 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Marriage & Divorce #149 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Survival Stories

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

This Newbery Honor book is a dramatic, heart-stopping story of a boy who, following a plane crash in the Canadian wilderness, must learn to survive with only a hatchet and his own wits. Ages 12-up.

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Grade 8-12 Brian Robeson, 13, is the only passenger on a small plane flying him to visit his father in the Canadian wilderness when the pilot has a heart attack and dies. The plane drifts off course and finally crashes into a small lake. Miraculously Brian is able to swim free of the plane, arriving on a sandy tree-lined shore with only his clothing, a tattered windbreaker, and the hatchet his mother had given him as a present. The novel chronicles in gritty detail Brian's mistakes, setbacks, and small triumphs as, with the help of the hatchet, he manages to survive the 54 days alone in the

wilderness. Paulsen effectively shows readers how Brian learns patience to watch, listen, and think before he acts as he attempts to build a fire, to fish and hunt, and to make his home under a rock overhang safe and comfortable. An epilogue discussing the lasting effects of Brian's stay in the wilderness and his dim chance of survival had winter come upon him before rescue adds credibility to the story. Paulsen tells a fine adventure story, but the sub-plot concerning Brian's preoccupation with his parents' divorce seems a bit forced and detracts from the book. As he did in *Dogsong* (Bradbury, 1985), Paulsen emphasizes character growth through a careful balancing of specific details of survival with the protagonist's thoughts and emotions. Barbara Chatton, College of Education, University of Wyoming, Laramie Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

My 10 year old son, and I listened to "Hatchet" on Audio CD format, while driving from WA State to eastern B.C., Canada. Read splendidly by Peter Coyote, it is a captivating story of a boy's survival in the northern Canadian woods. My son was mesmerized. He and I thoroughly enjoyed the story, and it helped time pass quickly on our long drive north. I think the entire audio version is just over 3 hours, with 3 CD's. I highly recommend this book for any youngster who's curious about learning survival skills, and imagines what it would be like to have to survive on their own.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have to survive in the wilderness...alone? That is exactly what 13-year-old Brian Robeson had to do on the book *Hatchet*. He was on his way to visit his father when his plane crashed. He had to provide everything for himself: food, shelter and other necessities for life. This book is perfect for anyone ages 9 and up. The book *Hatchet* is all about a 13-year-old boy trying to live alone in the wilderness. The writers use a 13-year-olds perspective in writing this book. Everything is new to Brian and he has to eat berries and other foods that he has never tried before. Sometimes he eats the wrong things or too much of something and his stomach doesn't agree. The way he talks is like a 13-year-old also. "I'm hungry." He said it aloud. In normal tones at first, then louder and louder until he was yelling it. "I'm hungry, I'm hungry, I'm hungry!" He is just like any other 13-year-old and the book proves this and helps the reader relate to Brian. The book is very simple to understand and has many facts about animals and plants. It tells about snowshoe rabbits and chokecherries and many other wildlife animals and plants. *Hatchet* is very informative but also lots of fun. This is a book that you would never want to put down once you start it. *Hatchet* has many facts and is very action packed and adventurous. Anyone 10 to 14 would find that it is especially great because it relates to them but anyone 9 or up would love this

action-packed book!

For the YA crowd, I think this would be excellent and the study guide in the back would provoke many good discussions, especially for children who have little outdoor experience. For an adult reader, it was way too simple and relatively graceless, but that's an unfair criticism, as I came to it expecting something that it was not going to deliver. Again, as a YA book, it definitely delivers a thought provoking and discussion-starting story with a compelling narrator.

This is a children's book, simply written, would be a good read for a boy or girl. Good lessons in self reliance.

This was a great book! I loved the story and it was super easy to follow along with! The book is also a very short read and I was able to read it in a day!! Once I started reading it I couldn't put it down!! The font used was also very easy to read and wasn't too small like other books but also wasn't super large! There also wasn't many spelling errors or grammar errors! I would recommend this book. I did pay full retail for this book

When my oldest son was in sixth grade and came home from school just bursting with excitement to tell me about a book he was reading, I was impressed. When his younger brother showed the same enthusiasm for the same book, I thought this is awesome! I purchased or checked out all the sequels for them and even read them myself. Exciting, fast-paced, easy read but interesting enough for adults. Any book that gets young teen boys excited about reading is a major hit! I have recommended this book numerous times over the years to reluctant readers and the results were always the same. I am now excited to be sharing these books with my 12 year old grandson and he is as excited about them as his step-dad, my son, was almost 20 years ago.

I read this book back when I was in third grade, (or perhaps "listened to" is the better term since I used a CD version of it), and honestly I didn't think it was that great at the time. But several years later (about a week ago at the time of this review) I decided to give it another try. I was instantly hooked by the story and couldn't put it down until I finished it. Plus I really enjoyed all of the real survival knowledge that's in this book. (being a survivalist myself) And a lot of it could be easily used if faced with a life or death situation. The only downsides to this book that I can think of is that there

is a repetition in the sentences that left me slightly confused. (if you read the book you'll know what I'm talking about) However this can definitely be forgiven by the fact that the author is portraying Brian's thoughts and confusion on the situation at hand and with his parents and the "Secret" that only he knows. But the book levels out these repetitions as Brian levels out in his thinking and life style with his transformation from a frail, scared boy who thinks everything is hopeless to a tough, determined man who is not about to let the woods beat him. Over all a great book that's a good read for all ages!

While waiting for my conference time with my kindergarten son's teacher I was looking at the display of book reports. A second grade student had done his report on Hatchet and I knew I had to read this book. Later that evening I was describing the book to my husband. I could not remember the title but I was only just describing little parts when he said Hatchet by Gary Paulson and that he was his favorite author when he was a boy. I am a 35 year old mother of 3, ages 17 to 2. I am an avid reader of all genres. I really enjoyed this book. I read it straight through because I was there with him and was rooting for him. As an adult, I could say it was predictable but that would be unfair. The author did an amazing job of making me turn the pages and putting me in the story. I would recommend this to any child that can handle this level of reading. It is written well and does not talk down to children, like some books do. I will end my review here so I can begin the next chapter :)

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