

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?

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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.



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