

Y7 ENGLISH – Novel: The Hatchet

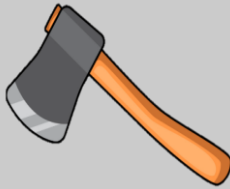







What is the story about?

- 1
 - Brian Robeson is the thirteen-year-old son of divorced parents.
 - The story begins with Brian flying on a small plane from his mother's home in New York, to visit his father in Northern Canada for the summer.
 - Mid-flight the pilot becomes ill.
- 2
 - Brian tries to land the plane but ends up crash-landing into a lake in the forest.
 - He must learn to survive on his own with nothing but his hatchet—a gift his mother gave him shortly before his plane departed.
- 3
 - Throughout the summer, Brian learns how to survive in the Canadian wilderness with only his hatchet.
 - During his time alone, Brian struggles with memories of home and the memory of his mother's affair, which only he knows about.
- 4
 - After 54 days in the wilderness, he is rescued.
 - Brian spends the remainder of the summer with his father but does not tell him about his mother's affair.







Key Themes

1	Man v Nature	Brian learns how to live with and respect the nature in the wild.
2	Growing up	Brian becomes more independent, confident and mature, the longer he lives in the wilderness.
3	Positive thinking	Brian has to remain positive to overcome his problems and survive the wilderness. He uses lots of positive thinking.
3	The City v The Wild	Brian begins to enjoy the peace of the wild but misses the fun of the city.

Vocabulary

Hatchet 	Cessna 406 	Wilderness 	Positive thinking 
Porcupine 	Moose 	CB Radio 	Transmitter 

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Key Characters	Character Information
 Brian Robeson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The main character in the story.• He is thirteen and his parents have recently divorced.• Brian knows about his mother's affair but keeps it secret.
 Brian's mother	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lives in New York.• Has been having an affair with 'the man with short blonde hair.' Brian's mother doesn't realise that Brian knows about her affair. She buys Brian the hatchet to try and cheer him up.
 Brian's father	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Now lives in Canada.• He didn't want a divorce and doesn't know why his wife does.• Brian's doesn't tell his father giving him hints on how to start a fire.
 Terry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brian's best friend in New York.• Terry also appeared in Brian's dream and gave him hints on how to start a fire.
 The Pilot	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Became ill whilst flying the plane.• Brian couldn't hear if he was called Jim or Jake.• His memory appears in Brian's dreams.
 Mr. Perpich	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brian's English teacher.• Remembering his positive attitude helps Brian to stay strong.