

Dear Rising 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Student,

I hope you have a wonderful summer and hope that you keep your brain active as well.

In keeping with the fine Trinity Middle School tradition, I would like to present you with your summer reading assignment: *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen. I know that you will enjoy reading this exciting novel. I have provided you with a copy of the book. Please return the book on the first day of school with your work. You also have a literature skills packet to review some various literary and grammar skills that are useful to know by this grade level. It would be wise to chunk your work; completing all at the beginning of the summer defeats the purpose and completing it all at the end will produce hasty work. **These assignments must be submitted on the first day of school. They are graded work.**

**Notes:** While you are reading, please pay attention to the various survival skills necessary for Brian Robeson to live his life alone in the Canadian wilderness. It would also be **very wise and beneficial** to take notes as you read. I would like to see your note-taking abilities and the various ways students take notes. Upon returning to school, you will be completing another writing task for me based on the events in the book. Some things to think about: theme, literary conflict, character traits, making connections, and cause and effect.

**Essay:** choose three of the survival skills used by Brian and relate them to the ways that you have learned to "survive" middle school and write a 5 paragraph essay. Use specific examples from the story to validate your points. In the Bible, find three passages (Cite the **Chapter and verse, and write out the entire text for the verses you select**) that discuss using the gifts that God has given us, and relate them to Brian's survival skills.

I would prefer the assignment to be typed (**double spacing, font 12 or 14 in a plain font like Times New Roman**). If you do not have computer access, it can be handwritten on neat, lined paper. Remember to include an introduction, conclusion, and a body paragraph for each survival skill. A guide for this essay is on the back of this page. Academic honesty please! This should be a reflection of your work and writing skills.

Our first book of the school year is another book in the Hatchet series, so please make sure you read well and take this assignment seriously. We will also be starting our year with another book in the *Hatchet* series. I would appreciate assignments already printed, but if you do not have access to a printer, please email it to me before the 1st day of school to [kgaubatz@tlsonline.org](mailto:kgaubatz@tlsonline.org).

Faithfully,

Mrs. Gaubatz

**For your essay:**

**Introduction:**

This should be a summary of the novel and then narrow into your topic. It should end with your thesis statement, which states the subject of the essay.

If you were writing about how this book relates to your summer vacation, for example, you could have something like, “There are three ways that the novel Hatchet reminds me of the vacation I took last summer.” for your thesis statement. Use the specific number (three) for the number of items that you will be discussing.

**Three Body Paragraphs:**

Use specific examples from the book to develop your ideas. You are essentially comparing Brian’s survival skills to ways you “survive” middle school. Use specific examples from the text and explain your survival story. 1 paragraph for each. For each survival skill, find a Bible verse that can coordinate with the survival skill and explain why.

**Conclusion:** Begin by restating your thesis statement in **different words**. Sometimes you can just invert the ideas. “The vacation that I took last summer with my family has three similarities to the occurrences in the novel Hatchet.” Next, summarize the three survival skills. Then, tell YOUR personal take-away from reading about Brian. Last, make a Godly-connection: what did God provide for Brian to survive and for us to be successful in middle school?

***Trouble with note-taking? Try this as a guide! You can do every chapter, or up to every 3 chapters.***

<b>Note-taking for Hatchet</b>
<i>For each chapter (if you take notes as you read) , or each section (if you take notes after you read)</i>
1. Current setting and surroundings; use descriptive words
2. New discoveries, thoughts, or “visitors”
3. Problem, obstacle, or predicament
4. Resolution or how Brian overcame #3 OR how you would have tried to resolve it
5. Brief summary- 1-2 sentences, can include a sketch
6. Reflection (HW): Can include a paired Bible verse or psalm, a question you have, a Lit Message (sticky note) explanation, or a prediction you have