

Approved for use in 7th Grade

Summary of the Work:

In *Hatchet*, 13-year-old Brian Robeson learned to survive alone during the summer months in the Canadian wilderness, armed only with his hatchet. In this story he was rescued at the end of the summer. But what would have happened to Brian if he had not been rescued? *Brian's Winter* is the exciting sequel to *Hatchet*. In this novel, Brian is not rescued and must build on his survival skills to face his deadliest enemy—a northern winter.

Rationale:

Brian's Winter is a work of fiction that depicts, from an adolescent's perspective, the realities of life struggling to survive alone in the Canadian wilderness as winter descends. Gary Paulsen uses imagery to appeal to all of the senses—sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch.

All elements of fiction can be explored: characters, setting, plot, and theme. The themes, which resonant with this age group include: survival, appreciation of nature, conservation, making choices, and self-discovery.

It is not necessary for students to have read *Hatchet*. *Brian's Winter* is a stand-alone novel.

Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:

"Paulsen crafts a companion/sequel to *Hatchet* containing many of its same pleasures. . .read together, the two books make the finest tale of survival yet."--Pointer, Kirkus Reviews

"Paulsen fans will not be disappointed."-- School Library Journal

"Writing with simplicity, Paulsen is at his best."-- Booklist

"A tribute to Paulsen's outdoor savvy and focused writing."-- The Bulletin

"An ultimate 'what if' companion. . .readable, fast paced."-- The Horn Book

* Print resources are available from the library media center and libraries in the district. Contact any library media specialist to view the scholarly sources.

* Scholarly reviews are also available online through Books in Print and Gale. Contact the library media specialist to obtain username and password information to access the subscription database of full-text reviews.

Noted Distinction:

- IRA Young Adults Choice
- Indiana Young Hoosier Award Master List 1997-1998
- Iowa Children's Choice Student Reading List 1997-1998
- Iowa Teen Award Master List 1997-1998
- Missouri Mark Twain Award Master List 1998-1999
- Nebraska Golden Sower Award Master List 1997-1998
- Pacific Northwest Young Readers Choice Award Master List 1998-1999
- South Carolina Junior Book Award Master List 1998-1999
- Wyoming Indian Paintbrush Award Master List 1997-1998

Readability:

- Lexile Score: 1140
- Readability Level:

Learning Resources Guidelines:

- The novel meets the Learning Resources Guidelines.

Standard Alignment: ([link](#))

Approval:

Submitted to Committee:

Approved for Adoption:

Notes on the Text:

(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

This story examines various topics including: survival, appreciation of nature, conservation, making choices, and self-discovery.

Connection to the Curriculum:

This book addresses the conflicts of man vs. self, man vs. nature, and man vs. man. It has action and adventure that draws the adolescent reader. The theme of returning to the primitive is unique.

An interdisciplinary approach to this novel could also be employed, bringing in the disciplines of science, math, art, and social studies.

Additional Connections:

(AP, Honors, Essential/Applied, Dramas, Films, etc.)