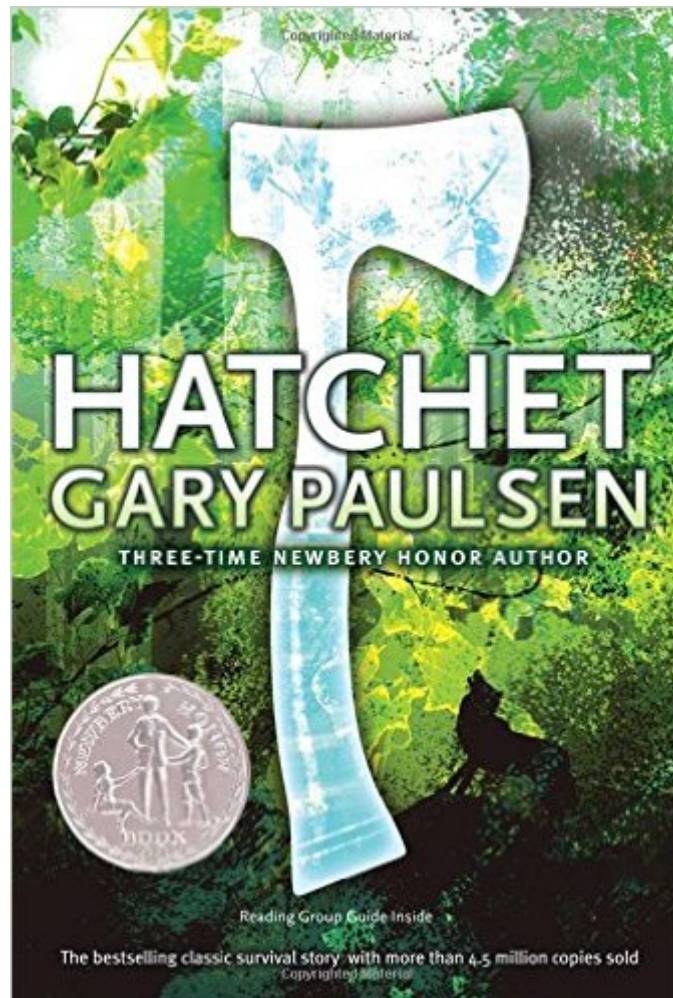


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# Hatchet



## Synopsis

This award-winning contemporary classic is the survival story with which all others are compared—a page-turning, heart-stopping adventure, recipient of the Newbery Honor. Thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson is on his way to visit his father when the single-engine plane in which he is flying crashes. Suddenly, Brian finds himself alone in the Canadian wilderness with nothing but a tattered Windbreaker and the hatchet his mother gave him as a present—and the dreadful secret that has been tearing him apart since his parents' divorce. But now Brian has no time for anger, self pity, or despair—it will take all his know-how and determination, and more courage than he knew he possessed, to survive.

## Book Information

Paperback: 192 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.5 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars— See all reviews (2,891 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #246 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Parents #3 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Survival Stories #76 in Books > Reference

## Customer Reviews

Are you tired of reading boring books? Then you should definitely read Hatchet, a book by Gary Paulsen! This book is about a 13 year old boy named Brian Robeson who goes to visit his father after his parents get divorced. On the way there, the pilot suffers a major heart attack and the plane crashes, but Brian makes it out alive. He has to survive alone by making fire, cooking fish, and hunting meat until a rescue plane finds him. Will Brian be rescued? What I like about this book is how Brian never gives up and always tries his hardest. Brian works hard no matter what happens and I like that attitude. This book is well suited for kids who like survival novels. The best age for the reader is ages 9 or older because not all the words are easy to read. The genre for this book is Realistic Fiction because this could actually happen. You should definitely read this book!

This story about a young boy stranded in the Canadian wilderness will never lose its affect on me. Being a child of divorce I can totally empathize with Brian's struggles to cope. And I appreciate Gary Paulsen's comparing that struggle with actual survival. But this book is in no way a sermon on how to deal with divorce. It's about learning to co-exist, and to overcome any obstacles. The descriptions of how Brian went about ensuring his survival, only with the use of his hatchet (hence the title) were awe inspiring when a pre-teen and the book still retains a sentimental hold over my heart as an adult. the encounters with wildlife range from comical to downright horrifying. Hatchet made me appreciate the things I had and also allowed me to realize that I shouldn't seek too hard the things I desired to have but didn't. Overall this is a great book to give your 10-13 year old, a book about respect for nature, appreciation for life, and above all understanding that you can make it through the toughest of situations as long as you have the right tools and are willing to learn how to use them.

Imagine being stranded in the wilderness alone and learning to survive. We all think about it at least once in our life, learning to hunt, getting shelter, and staying sane. In the book, Hatchet, Brian Robeson, age thirteen, is stranded in the Canadian wilderness, after his plane crashes, with only a hatchet and the clothes on his back. Brian was on that plane to his dad's house because of the Secret... This survival-fiction book tells how Brian undergoes a complete character change. When he first arrives he is relatively weak, but eventually Brian has keen, alert, senses, and he is a stronger person. In the book, Brian must deal with insane moose, and making a new friend; fire. Hunting and food gathering is a major part of the book, which makes it seem very realistic, but will Brian ever make it home alive? This book is a Newbery honor book and I believe it is very deserving of that prestigious award. Gary Paulsen's portrayal of someone in that predicament is very accurate. He puts you right in the action and in the struggle. I recommend this book to people of all different ages and backgrounds. You will feel every moment of hope and rejection in this amazing Paulsen novel.

I am a grandmother with small granddaughters, one of whom is a very precocious reader. She is in first grade, and I ordered Hatchet with another book, which she fortunately became interested in. In a fit of boredom, I picked up the book that was left at my house. I was tremendously relieved she had not taken Hatchet to begin it, without the knowledge of me or her parents! I do not think it would have been appropriate for her, at the age of 7. I will be placing it in an unobtrusive location, to wait for her to read when she is a couple years older. I find it interesting that not a single review I found

mentioned at the start, when the pilot of the small aircraft dies mid-flight, the process is very specifically detailed--the odor, the vision of his face as he dies. Additionally, Brian is angry about his mother, and her extra-marital affair--this book is significantly more explicit about adult problems than most children's literature that is written for 3rd and 4th graders. I thought, the Force was with me! I cannot imagine my granddaughter reading this book now. The lesson I learned, is to peruse books I'm not familiar with before I hand them over--I am writing about a little girl whose mother read portions of *The Yearling* to her at age 5, when she begged and pleaded, and sat attentively throughout! (my daughter said she "edited" as she read the book) For younger readers, I'd advise parental supervision, and discussion of the issues detailed in *The Hatchet*, if your child is ready for it.

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