



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

HATCHET
By Gary Paulsen

Authority

- During Brian’s period of isolation in the Canadian wilderness, no other person was present to exercise authority or power without authority over him. Were there any benefits to this absence of authority or power? If so, what were these benefits?
- What were the costs, if any?

Responsibility

- Unlike most stories, the main character in *Hatchet* must accept total responsibility for himself if he is to survive. Discuss ways in which Brian benefits from accepting responsibility for himself.
- Discuss some of the costs or “mistakes” which occur as a result of Brian accepting responsibility.

Justice

- From Brian’s point of view, his parent’s divorce is “unjust.” Does this example fit in the category of distributive, procedural or correctional justice? Explain your answer.

Privacy

- Identify an example of informational privacy in this story.

We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution

- Connections to text
 1. Common welfare over self-interest is a part of many lessons in your *We the People* text. Discuss why self-interest is so important in this story.
 2. Why is common welfare not a real issue in *Hatchet*?

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Writing prompt

Planning

1. Think about what you want to write.
2. Reread the prompt to make sure you are writing about the topic.
3. Make notes. Use your prewriting skills, such as mapping or outlining.
4. Carefully read the five statements below the prompt.

Writing prompt

Authors select the title of a book very carefully. Write to inform the reader why you think Gary Paulsen selected *Hatchet* as the title of this book.

As you write your paper, remember to

- carefully explain your reasons for Paulsen selecting this title;
- include specific facts, details, and examples which support the reasons you select;
- present your ideas in a clear and logical order, including an introduction, body, and conclusion;
- use a variety of words and well-constructed sentences;
- correct any errors in grammar, mechanics, and spelling.