

Crestwood Junior High  
Cresco, Iowa

Dear Gary Paulsen,

Last year when I was in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, my teacher gave us the assignment to read *Hatchet* and to do a reading log on it. I started the book and after the first page I couldn't put the book down. The way Brian survived in a horrible condition that was unbelievable. If I was in the plane crash I probably wouldn't have survived. It's amazing what people can take to survive. If I were stranded on a abandoned island I would go crazy. I would probably go absolutely positively loony.

When I got to the half way point of the book of about to there I started to wonder if Brian was going to survive. I mean he ate gut cherries that mad him sick. How would you cure sicknesses without medication? Whenever I got sick I would always have something to cure it. If Brian was a real person I would definitely want to meet him. When I read your book and I realized that I was trapped and couldn't escape from the book. It was like I was there with Brian, it was like I was helping Brian gather some stuff for camp and stuff it was like I was there. It made me feel like I was I better person to help Brian even though I wasn't there. You made it so I understood Brian and the way he thought.

If I was in Brian's shoes I would have been hysterical. But I would try hard not to panic but some how I new I would. I mean it would be hard, your miles away from civilization, not a person around and all you got is silence, besides there are dangerous animals that could attach you. The silence would change my world I live in because I have gotten used to reading and working with a lot or at least some noise and I hate to be alone I get scared like some one is always watching me or some thing so I couldn't live in the wilderness, it just wouldn't work with me. You probably wouldn't have much food to live on like Brian, you would be bored all the time also so that wouldn't be much fun.

Your book taught me new ways on how to survive in the wild. Your book is enjoyable and I hope you make more books just like *Hatchet*. I am also happy that Brian was rescued from the woods to, I was so relieved. Your book changed the way I think and feel about other people in a way hard to describe. I guess it is mostly because it taught me that it is possible to survive in the wild with no one around so I want to thank your for creating *Hatchet* it made me believe more in myself and to help me get along with nature better.

Sincerely

Jacob Schroetter