

Brian's Winter by Gary Paulsen

Optional Guided Reading Questions

Chapter 1

1. Why was Brian in the wilderness?
2. How long had Brian been there? Show the math problem that you did to figure out the answer.
3. List at least three things that Brian saved from the plane.
4. Something is different. What is changing? What is different?
5. Brian talks about a basic law. What is the law?
6. Was it hard for Brian to hunt? Did he enjoy it?
7. Why was it so important that Brian did not waste any part of the rabbit?
8. What is game? (example: The game were easily spooked)

Chapter 2

1. Was Brian happy? Why or why not?
2. What had Brian learned about territory?
3. Who taught him about territory?
4. How did Brian leave his sign, or mark his territory?
5. Why had the bear come to Brian's camp?
6. Why would Brian's weapons not work on the bear?
7. What was the primary rule?
8. What would be the most dangerous thing that Brian had yet faced?

Chapter 3

1. What did Brian call the new bow that he needed?
2. Brian knew that he would have to face several problems. What were three problems he would face?
3. Brian tells us something that he has learned. What is it?
4. What had Brian seen at Pinter's Sporting Goods store?
5. Who were the pros at living in the wilderness?
6. Brian is famished. What does famished mean?
7. Why did Brian think that his arrow was lucky?

8. Did Brian ever use the arrow again? Why or why not?

9. What did Brian use to draw pictures with?

Chapter 4

1. Brian says that he just about went crazy. Why was he feeling this way?

2. Why did the animals have to come out in the rain?

3. Brian felt a kind of lethargy. What does lethargy mean?

4. Brian talks about the people who came before him. Who is he talking about?

5. Why did Brian mud the door?

6. What kind of rock did Brian finally use to make arrowheads?

7. What did Brian use the rabbit skin for?

8. Brian talks about things snowballing. What does snowballing mean?

9. What is the setting of the story?

Chapter 5

1. Why did Brian take his knife and hatchet when he went to look for the wolf kill?

2. What kind of deer was it that the wolves had killed?

3. Why did Brian think that the deer was a treasure?

4. What does it mean when someone or something salivates?

5. Why did Brian not want to drag the deer all the way back to his camp?

6. Why did the eyes of the doe bother Brian?

7. Where did Brian put the deer head? Why did he do this?

8. Brian was described as "half cocky." What does cocky mean?

9. Why did Brian think that he was dead?

10. Do you think the skunk will be back? Why or why not?

Chapter 6 & 7

1. What did Brian know about winter?

2. Where did the skunk live?

3. Brian says the he has a roommate with a "terminal hygiene problem. What is a terminal hygiene problem?

4. What did Brian name the skunk?

5. Why did Brian name the skunk what he named it?

6. The bow that Brian made took 50 to 60 pounds of pull to use. What does that mean?

7. What had he decided to use the bow for?

8. Do you think he likes having Betty around? Why or why not?

Chapter 9

1. Why did the rabbits change color in the winter?

2. Brian said that he thought the rabbits were a fluke. What is a fluke?

3. After Brian first heard the breaking of limbs, his hair stood up on his neck. Why did his hair stand up?

4. Brian says that he was different now. What does he mean? How is he different?

5. Why did the moose charge at Brian?

6. Was the moose a male or a female?

7. What finally killed the moose?

8. Brian saw nothing but darkness. What happened to Brian?

Chapter 10 & 11

1. There is a great weight on Brian. What is the great weight?

2. Brian felt sad and elated at the same time about killing the moose. What does elated mean?

3. Why could Brian not drag the moose back to camp?

4. Brian says that the moose is a house of meat. What does he mean?

5. What was the first thing that Brian did to the moose before he started cutting up the meat?

6. What happened to the guts?

7. Brian cooked some meat for lunch and said that it was perfect. Why was it perfect?

8. Why do you think Brian craved fat?

9. How long did it take Brian to get the moose mostly back to camp?

10. Why was the day a good day?

Chapter 12

1. Why could Brian no longer fish?

2. Why did Brian choose the rump of the moose to eat for his Thanksgiving meal?

3. What did Brian learn from the rabbit?

4. Why did he think that the rabbits were perfect?

5. Brian talks about some things that he wants. What does he want more than anything?

6. What did Brian give thanks for? (at least 3 things)

7. What was Brian most thankful for?

8. What is something that you are thankful for?

9. What did Brian hear?

Chapter 13

1. Brian thinks that the person shooting in the dark must be a maniac. What is a maniac?
2. Brian waited for daylight to come so that he could look for what?
3. What were the shots that Brian heard?
4. Why were the trees breaking apart?
5. Brian realizes that he "hadn't gone off the deep end." What does that expression mean?
6. What did Brian know for certain?
7. How do you think Brian felt when he realized that he had not heard gunshots?
8. Describe the cold that Brian felt the morning that he went to look for the people he thought were shooting.

Chapter 14

1. What was as bad as it gets?
2. Brian thinks that the cold and snow could be fatal. What does fatal mean?
3. How long did it take Brian to make the snow shoes?
4. How did Brian have to walk in the snowshoes?
5. How did the snowshoes change everything?
6. Brian thought that he had been eating like a wolf. What did he mean by that?
7. What did Brian have to make snowshoes at all?
8. What did Brian think would happen to him if he didn't make the shoes?
9. Brian dreams about walking on white clouds. What is he really dreaming about?

Chapter 15

1. What was one thing that happened that described how cold it was?
2. Brian said that the moose had spoiled him and he didn't want to hunt rabbits. What did he mean by this?
3. As Brian was hunting the deer, he said that he has learned how to hunt. List two things that Brian had to do to successfully hunt.
4. Brian said, "It would not get better." What does he mean by this?
5. What did Brian use the deer skin for that allowed him to only make one trip back to camp?
6. Brian says that he is fat. He is not talking about how much he weighs, so what does he mean?
7. Why did Brian think that maybe he liked winter better than summer?
8. How far was it back to camp from where he killed the deer?
9. At one time in the chapter, Brian felt like he had done something wrong when he killed the

deer. Do you think it was wrong? Why or why not?

Chapter 16 - Epilogue

1. What does Brian smell?

2. What does Brian discover on the lake?

3. How many people live with the man?

4. What did the Smallhorns think Brian was doing out in the wilderness?

5. How did Brian feel about leaving the woods?