



# The Hatchet Survival Guide

## Chapter 13

**Recommendations:** For students in Grades 6-9. Activity done inside. Adult supervision recommended for students accessing the internet. **Note:** This chapter contains mature content regarding coping with self-harm and suicidal thoughts.

**Purpose:** Accompany reading a novel with learning some real survival skills

**Materials:**

- The Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
  - Free online pdf (*contains minor typos*) <https://scotland.k12.mo.us/view/637.pdf>
  - Free YouTube audio: (content warning, character deals with self-harm and suicidal thoughts) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v15OpCjUIjE>
- Activity Materials will be included with instructions for the specific activities below

**Chapter Summary:** In his deepening connection between mind, body, and surroundings Brian reflects on how difficult it was to miss the signal fire for a passing plane and on who he is now that living in the wilderness has changed him.

### Survival Skill 12: Resilience & Change

*"...he could feel new hope building in him. Not hope that he would be rescued—that was gone. But hope in his knowledge. Hope in the fact that he could learn and survive and take care of himself. Tough hope, he thought that night. I am full of tough hope."*

- Go back to the map that you made for Survival Skill 4 – Getting Your Bearings.
- Physically return to the same place where you sat to make that map. Looking around, is there anything that you would add, remove, or change considering what you have learned so far?

In the earlier chapters, one of the resources that Brian is reminded to account for is himself.

*"There. That was it. No, wait. One other thing. Those were all the things he had, but he also had himself. Perpitch used to drum that into them—"You are your most valuable asset. Don't forget that. You are the best thing you have."*  
- Chapter 5

Here are a couple of strengths tests and personality tests. You don't have to do all of them, but you can do as many as you like to explore who you are and what strengths you have. There are also dozens more online as well as friends, family, and self-reflection if you want to keep exploring.

- [Top 5 Strengths](#)
- [Institute of Character, Strengths Survey](#)
- [Myers-Briggs Personality Test](#)
- [Enneagram Personality Test](#)

After completing a test or two, take a moment to reflect on who you are and what aspects of your character would be helpful in a survival situation.

See "The Hatchet Chapters 14 & 15" on the Gould Lake website for more content