



Lesson Plan Aid for Book Punch® - Hatchet

Grade levels 6-9
Lexile Framework for Reading Measure 1020L

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Introduction to Book Punch®

Book Punch guides students through the steps of thinking and writing about well-known core literature for grade levels 3 through 9. Students write paragraphs or essays responding to interactive writing prompts. The program tutors students to develop ideas and organize their thinking about books they read.

Each program in the Merit Book Punch collection focuses on one book title. Each contains 6-7 writing prompts, 600 supporting questions and 600 helpful tips to guide students through each step in the writing process. The program for each book title comprises 3 online interactive units as follows:

- Text-to-Self: Based on themes from the book, students write paragraphs about their own experiences.
- Evidence and Inference: Students write paragraphs or essays that connect details with ideas in the book to infer a deeper meaning from what they are reading.
- Reading Check: Students write a paragraph about facts and/or events from the book to ensure that they have read it.

Together, these units develop students' reading comprehension and writing skills in complementary ways.

Printables

Each Book Punch title includes 11 printable worksheets, a lesson plan aid, and the Book Punch® Series Manual with detailed instructions for implementation. The documents can be viewed and printed from My Learning Center. Self-learners and teachers click the course name; tutors and parents click the Programs link and then click the Book Punch title.

All printables can also be viewed and printed from the links provided on the last page of this document.

Text-to-Self

Text-to-Self writing prompts help to enrich students' reading experience. Students write paragraphs that help them relate their own experiences to events that take place in the book. See the topics listed below.

Text-to-Self Topic 1

Brian is constantly learning from the mistakes he makes while trying to survive in the wild. Think about a mistake you made in your life that taught you a valuable lesson or skill. Write a paragraph about a mistake you made and tell what you learned from the experience.

Text-to-Self Topic 2

In the story, Brian is so hungry that he eats raw turtle eggs. At first, his throat tries to throw them back up, but by the third egg they just slide down. You may never have been so hungry that you would have eaten anything, but think of a time that you ate a strange food. Write a paragraph about a strange food that you have eaten.

Text-to-Self Topic 3

In the beginning many things frighten Brian. He becomes less and less afraid once he becomes used to his new home and better understands it. Write a paragraph about something you were afraid of in the past that you are not afraid of now.

Evidence and Inference - Essay Topics

See the writing prompts below and the accompanying list of questions for each prompt, the answers to which provide supporting evidence for body paragraphs that could be included in an essay. The Thesis Statement Worksheet at the end of this document will help students understand the structure of a thesis. The Evidence and Inference Worksheet pages will help students plan their essays and understand the relationship between the thesis statement, body paragraphs and supporting points.

Evidence and Inference Topic 1

When Brian, the main character in Gary Paulsen's "Hatchet," finds himself stranded in the wilderness, he must find the strength and the tools he needs to adapt and survive. Write a multi-paragraph essay telling the most important things Brian does to adapt to his wilderness home. You must write a thesis statement that expresses this opinion, a body of two or three paragraphs to support your statement, and a conclusion paragraph that sums up this point of view.

Food>>

1. What makes Brian understand that to survive he must first find food?
2. Why are berries Brian's first food?

Fire>>

3. Why does Brian think a fire will be helpful?
4. Brian finds there are many steps to make a fire. How does Brian learn to make a fire?

Animals>>

5. How does Brian learn that an animal can be a problem for him?
6. How does Brian learn that an animal can make him miserable?

Evidence and Inference Topic 2

In the wilderness Brian faces many hardships and obstacles that make his life difficult. It would be easier to give up but Brian chooses to fight. In his struggle he finds strength in the advice of his teacher, Mr. Perpich, to stay positive. Write a multi-paragraph essay arguing that Brian's positive thinking is an important survival tool for him. You must write a thesis statement that expresses this opinion, a body of two or three paragraphs to support your statement, and a concluding paragraph that sums up this point of view.

New perspectives>>

1. After the crash Brian thinks he has nothing. What does Brian see that he has after he remembers Mr. Perpich telling students to stay positive?
2. Brian feels hopeless until he remembers Mr. Perpich's words, "You are your most valuable asset." How does this help shift Brian's perspective?

Overcome obstacles>>

3. What obstacles in the wilderness test Brian's positive thinking?
4. What does Brian do that shows he does not give up easily when times are hard?

Trusts himself>>

5. What does Brian do that proves he trusts his abilities even though he has made many mistakes?
6. How does Brian show that he believes in his ability to accomplish difficult tasks?

Reading Check

The Reading Check unit evaluates students' paragraphs using a key point check to determine if the student has read the book. See the Reading Check writing prompt below and the list of questions that accompany it, the answers to which should be included in a satisfactory paragraph.

Reading Check Topic

Sometimes the worst situation can bring out one's best qualities. For 13-year-old Brian Robeson, a plane crash that strands him in a remote wilderness tests both his survival skills and his will to live. Write a paragraph that tells how the hatchet Brian's mother gives him before he boards the plane helps him survive the plane crash in the wilderness.

1. What does Brian make with the hatchet that helps him to get food?
2. How does the hatchet help Brian build a shelter?
3. How does the hatchet help Brian to start a fire?
4. How does the hatchet help Brian reach the survival pack?

Curriculum Integration

See the Book Punch Series Manual. The Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary section and the Beyond the Program section provide detailed instructions for implementing vocabulary, character and pre-writing lessons. The Book Punch Series Manual includes printable worksheets for these lessons.

Vocabulary

See the Vocabulary Exploration worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Thematic words from Hatchet that can be explored include:

VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
hatchet	Small ax with a short handle
hesitate	To hold back in doubt or uncertainty
persistent	Continuing to exist, longer than usual
pity	Sympathetic feeling for the distress of others

Vocabulary particular to the time and setting of Hatchet include:

VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
abate	Decline or fall
altimeter	Instrument for measuring altitude
amphibious	Adapted for both land and water
bushplane	Airplane serving undeveloped parts of a country
convulse	Shake or quiver
eddy	To move against the main current or in a circle
frenzy	Wild excitement
fuselage	Central body part of an airplane
haunch	Hip, buttock, and upper thigh
hummock	Rounded mound of earth
incessant	Nonstop, never ending
magazine	Part of a gun that holds ammunition
murky	Very dark

The Word Search Puzzle and Crossword Puzzle worksheets contain many of the words above. They can be used to reinforce the vocabulary in the book. These worksheets can be accessed via the Internet. See the last page of this document for Printable Worksheet links.

Character Exploration

See the Character Exploration worksheet and the Compare and Contrast worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Here are suggested character exploration prompts for classroom discussion:

Imagine that Brian is your friend in real life. Write words and phrases that would help you describe him to someone who doesn't know him. (What does Brian look like? What kind of personality does he have? What does he like to do?)

Compare and contrast Brian with Mr. Perpich or another character in the book.

Group Work and Discussion - Pre-writing

See the Brainstorming worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Here is a suggested topic for classroom discussion:

Brian has bad luck when his plane crashes in the Canadian wilderness. In spite of this disaster, Brian has some good luck as he tries to survive until help arrives. Write a paragraph describing Brian's first good luck moment after landing safely.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read through Chapter 6.)

Additional Paragraph and Essay Writing Prompts

See the Independent Follow-up worksheets in the Book Punch Series Manual. Using the context of Hatchet, and the appropriate Independent Follow-up worksheet, students may continue the writing process after publishing their paragraphs and essays from Book Punch. Here are two additional topics students can write about:

Paragraph writing topic

Imagine that Brian is preparing a survival kit for another trip to the wilderness. Based on his experiences in "Hatchet," what items might he place in the kit? Write a paragraph describing these items. Why would Brian choose them?

(This topic is recommended for students who have read the entire book.)

Essay writing topic

Brian is, at times, overcome with fear as he tries to survive in the wilderness. Write an essay that argues that fear is sometimes helpful to Brian's efforts to survive.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read the entire book.)

Name _____

Date _____

Thesis Statement Worksheet

The thesis statement contains two parts: your OPINION and a PLAN, the points that support your opinion. Each of the points in your plan will be the main idea of a body paragraph in your essay.

Sample thesis statement for an essay with 3 body paragraphs.

Bike riding is an ideal mode of transportation (OPINION) because it is reliable, fast, and allows to you to avoid traffic (PLAN).

Exercise 1

Look at the following well-written thesis statements.
Underline the opinion with two lines and the plan with one line.

1. Soccer is a great sport because it is fun, athletic, and social.
2. Oatmeal is the best breakfast because it is tasty and nutritious.
3. The two most important United States presidents were George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

Exercise 2

Remember that a thesis statement should always be comprised of two parts: your opinion and a plan.
Draw a line to connect each opinion on the left with its matching plan on the right.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Bananas are the best type of fruit | to travel, bike ride, and swim. |
| 2. My two favorite relatives are | because they are tasty, filling, and stay fresh all day. |
| 3. The most exciting ways to spend my vacation are | my brother and my grandmother. |

Printable Worksheet Links

You must be connected to the Internet to access these links.

[Crossword Puzzle - starter](#)

[Crossword Puzzle - challenge](#)

[Word Search Puzzle](#)

[Evidence and Inference Worksheet](#)

[See the Book Punch® Series Manual for additional printable worksheets.](#)

See the previous page for the Thesis Statement Worksheet.

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