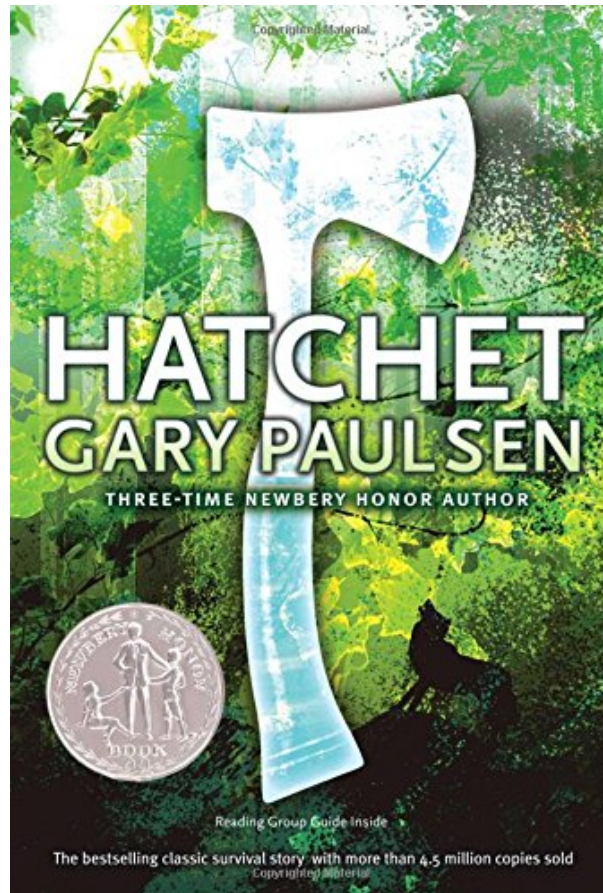
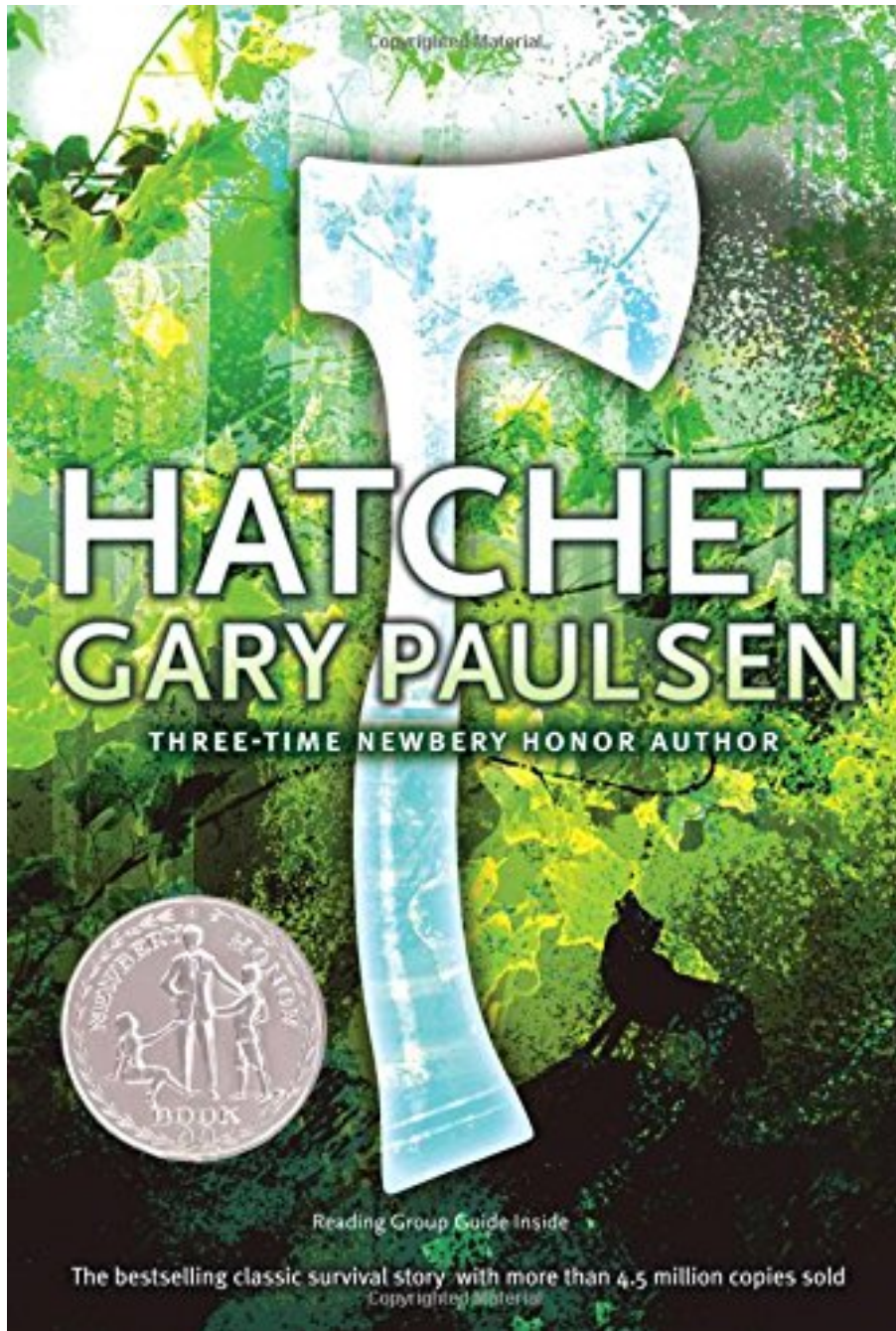


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From Publishers Weekly

This Newbery Honor book is a dramatic, heart-stopping story of a boy who, following a plane crash in the Canadian wilderness, must learn to survive with only a hatchet and his own wits. Ages 12-up.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 8-12 Brian Robeson, 13, is the only passenger on a small plane flying him to visit his father in the Canadian wilderness when the pilot has a heart attack and dies. The plane drifts off course and finally crashes into a small lake. Miraculously Brian is able to swim free of the plane, arriving on a sandy tree-lined shore with only his clothing, a tattered windbreaker, and the hatchet his mother had given him as a present. The novel chronicles in gritty detail Brian's mistakes, setbacks, and small triumphs as, with the help of the hatchet, he manages to survive the 54 days alone in the wilderness. Paulsen effectively shows readers how Brian learns patience to watch, listen, and think before he acts as he attempts to build a fire, to fish and hunt, and to make his home under a rock overhang safe and comfortable. An epilogue discussing the lasting effects of Brian's stay in the wilderness and his dim chance of survival had winter come upon him before rescue adds credibility to the story. Paulsen tells a fine adventure story, but the sub-plot concerning Brian's preoccupation with his parents' divorce seems a bit forced and detracts from the book. As he did in *Dogsong* (Bradbury, 1985), Paulsen emphasizes character growth through a careful balancing of specific details of survival with the protagonist's thoughts and emotions. Barbara Chatton, College of Education, University of Wyoming, Laramie

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Review

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-- Kirkus Reviews, starred review

"Riveting."

-- Booklist, starred review

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This award-winning contemporary classic is the survival story with which all others are compared—and a page-turning, heart-stopping adventure, recipient of the Newbery Honor.

Thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson is on his way to visit his father when the single-engine plane in which he is flying crashes. Suddenly, Brian finds himself alone in the Canadian wilderness with nothing but a tattered Windbreaker and the hatchet his mother gave him as a present—and the dreadful secret that has been tearing him apart since his parent's divorce. But now Brian has no time for anger, self pity, or despair—it will take all his know-how and determination, and more courage than he knew he possessed, to survive.

- Sales Rank: #395 in Books
- Brand: Perfection Learning
- Model: SIM9781416936473
- Published on: 2006-12-26
- Released on: 2006-12-26
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.63" h x .50" w x 5.13" l, .30 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 192 pages

Features

- Ages - 10,11,12,13,14
- Weight - 0.302
- Depth - 0.00
- Width - 0.00
- Height - 0.00

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"Riveting."

-- Booklist, starred review

Most helpful customer reviews

18 of 18 people found the following review helpful.

Beware for Younger Readers!

By Calebini

I am a grandmother with small granddaughters, one of whom is a very precocious reader. She is in first grade, and I ordered *Hatchet* with another book, which she fortunately became interested in. In a fit of boredom, I picked up the book that was left at my house. I was tremendously relieved she had not taken *Hatchet* to begin it, without the knowledge of me or her parents! I do not think it would have been appropriate for her, at the age of 7. I will be placing it in an unobtrusive location, to wait for her to read when she is a couple years older.

I find it interesting that not a single review I found mentioned at the start, when the pilot of the small aircraft dies mid-flight, the process is very specifically detailed--the odor, the vision of his face as he dies. Additionally, Brian is angry about his mother, and her extra-marital affair--this book is significantly more explicit about adult problems than most children's literature that is written for 3rd and 4th graders. I thought, the Force was with me! I cannot imagine my granddaughter reading this book now. The lesson I learned, is to peruse books I'm not familiar with before I hand them over--I am writing about a little girl whose mother read portions of *The Yearling* to her at age 5, when she begged and pleaded, and sat attentively throughout! (my daughter said she "edited" as she read the book) For younger readers, I'd advise parental supervision, and discussion of the issues detailed in *The Hatchet*, if your child is ready for it.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

First in an adventure series with great appeal for middle-school

By Max Lubach

First in an adventure series with great appeal for middle-school, high-school, and older readers. This is the kind of book that continues in your dreams once you have put it down. Great for reluctant readers, as well as ESL learning Gary Paulsen is never condescending or obviously trying to simplify his stories. They are simply remarkable at all levels. This would be a great gift or prize for any boy or girl. Adults seem equally enthusiastic about this unforgettable book. It does not involve sex, seduction, or romance, except the romance of the wild and breathtaking adventure and survival skills. This story inspires readers to think about our innate intelligence to survive under difficult circumstances.

A fast-paced, but thoroughly modern Robinson Crusoe adventure.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

A great lesson on perseverance

By munjey86

I read this book in elementary school back in 1995-1996. I'm re-reading it and so far it has held up well.

As a kid, this book gave me an appreciation for the outdoors and surviving in the world when the odds are stacked against you. A great lesson on perseverance.

It also instilled an idea in my mind to not take everyday commodities and experiences for granted.

I loved Gary Paulsen's books as a child, and the other Hatchet books in this series are great, too. I just discovered writing this review that there is now a 5th book.

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