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Conversations

Work in groups to write and perform the conversations that might have occurred in each of the following situations.

- Brian is riding to the airport with his mother. She keeps trying to get him to talk, but he does not want to. *(2 people)*
- The judge asks Brian where he wants to live, questions his parents and grants their divorce. *(4 people)*
- Brian and his friend Terry are riding their bikes near the park when Brian sees his mother and The Secret. *(2 people)*
- Perpich teaches his class to ‘get motivated’, and Brian responds with comments and questions. *(2 people)*
- Brian and his friend Terry are joking and making things up and pretending that they are lost in the woods. They discuss what they would do. *(2 people)*
- Over stew and peach whip, Brian and the pilot who rescues him discuss the days in the woods. *(2 people)*
- Brian’s parents are told that he has been rescued. *(2 people)*
- Brian and his parents are back together, sitting at breakfast on the day after his return. *(3 people)*
- Brian and a group of his friends are talking on his first day back at school. *(2 or more people)*

Hatchet

by Gary Paulsen

(Pan Macmillan, 1991)

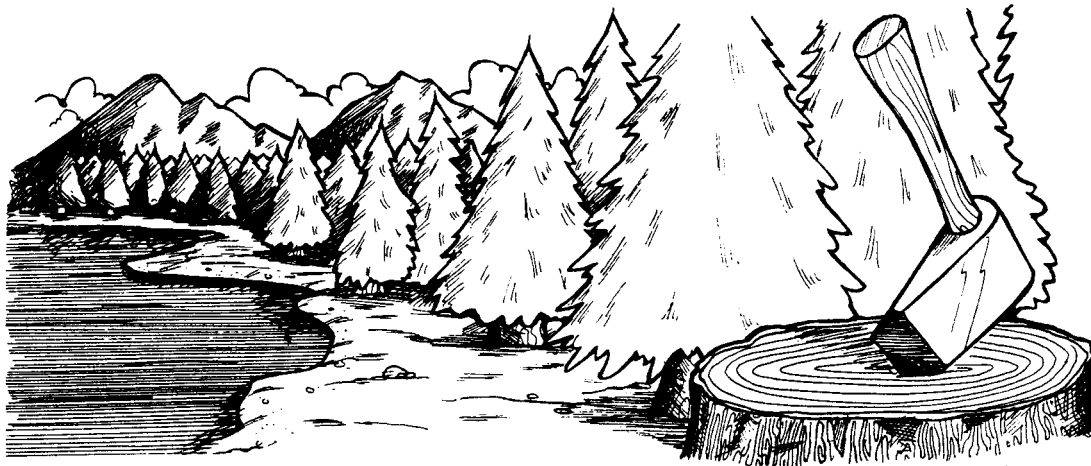
When Brian Robeson's plane goes down in the Canadian north woods after the pilot of the small bushplane dies of a heart attack, Brian, a 'city boy', must learn to survive, even as he struggles with the pain of his parents' divorce and the secret he keeps about it.

Brian survives his injuries from the wreck, the onslaught of the hordes of mosquitoes, the sunburn and the initial thirst and hunger, as he waits to be rescued. Within a few days, he finds shelter and his only food – some bitter berries that he gorges upon. He later comes to call these berries 'gutcherries' because they cause him severe stomach pain. The boy grows in the ways of the woods as he finds raspberries, ignoring the bear that also comes to feast. He cannot ignore the porcupine, though, that stumbles into his shelter, perhaps looking for the store of berries that Brian has. He is injured once again and, after pulling the porcupine quills out of his leg, has a dream.

In this dream, Brian's father points to the fire that he is cooking on. When Brian awakes, he remembers the sparks that flew when he threw the precious hatchet against the rock wall. Thinking about this leads to the re-discovery of fire, and Brian's adjustment to the wilderness as he subsequently discovers turtle eggs and later, how to fish with bow and arrow. When he misses the attention of the pilot of a passing plane, however, he becomes deeply depressed and attempts suicide. Out of this despair comes a new confidence in himself and his power to survive, whether or not he is rescued.

Encounters with a skunk, a moose and a tornado only deepen this confidence, and Brian decides to visit the sunken plane, hoping to recover the survival pack stowed in the fuselage. The survival pack yields precious dehydrated food and a transmitter that Brian discards after he assumes it is useless. The 'broken' transmitter results in his rescue and his return to his mother.

The epilogue catalogues the changes in Brian due to his ordeal. It also recounts his adjustment to life as it had been, before his fifty-four days in the wilderness.



Survival Fair Food Booths

You may have already planned a good many food booths for your fair, but you may want to include these items, considering the problems that Brian had with each animal.

'Porcupine' Hors D'oeuvres

- 450 g ground beef
- 450 mL can tomato sauce
- ¼ cup (60 mL) uncooked rice
- 1 tsp. (5 mL) worcestershire sauce
- ½ cup (80 mL) minced onion
- 1 egg
- ½ cup (120 mL) water
- salt and pepper to taste



Mix 4 tablespoons (60 mL) of the tomato sauce with the egg, and then stir in the rice, onion, salt and pepper, and ground beef. Make into little balls and fry. Combine the remaining tomato sauce with worcestershire sauce and water. Add the cooked meatballs. Bring to a boil, and then simmer on low heat for a least one-half hour.

Layered Chocolate 'Moose'

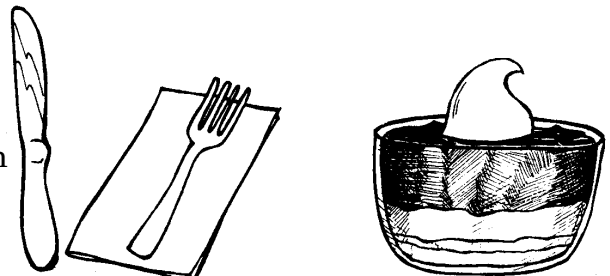
Mix and press into a 22.5 cm x 32.5 cm pan:

- 1 cup (240 mL) flour
- ½ cup (120 mL) chopped nuts
- ½ cup (120 mL) soft butter
- Bake at 180° C for 15 minutes. Cool.



Blend together and spread over the first layer:

- 1 cup (240 mL) cream cheese
- 1 cup (240 mL) confectionary sugar
- 1 cup (240 mL) packaged whipped cream



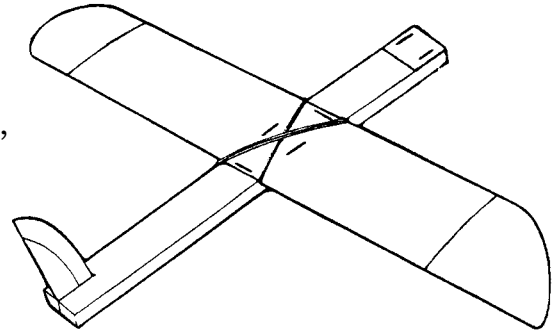
Combine and spread on top:

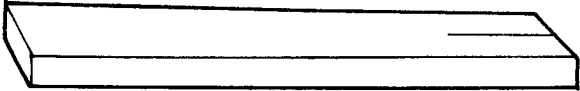
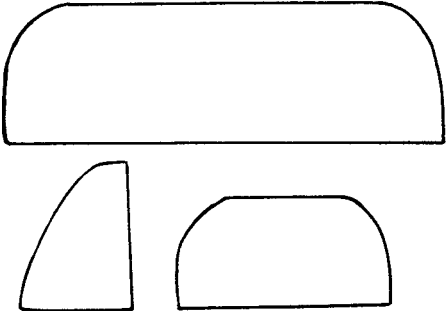
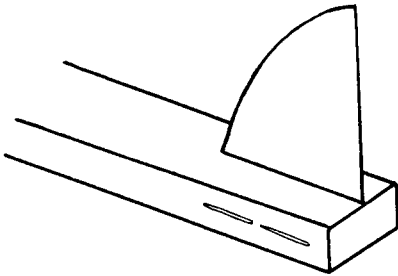
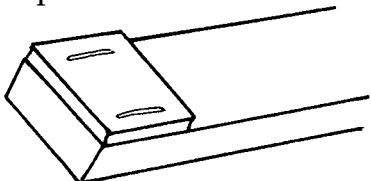
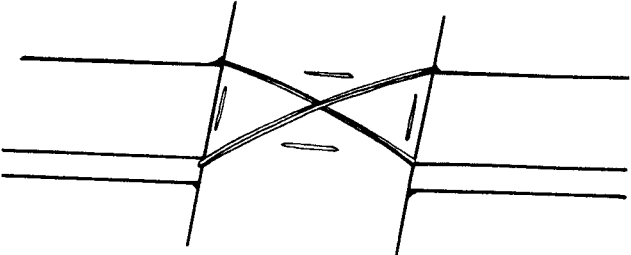
- 2 small packages instant chocolate pudding made according to directions

Adventures in Aeronautics

Many of the aeronautics principles Brian encountered in his flight can be explored by making and flying a simple glider. You will need the following:

- Straight piece of light wood, such as balsa, 28 cm x 2.5 cm x 1 cm
- Stiff cardboard or poster paper
- Stapler and staples
- Nylon thread
- Utility knife



<p>Step 1: The piece of balsa wood is the fuselage. Cut a slit on the top that is 3 cm long; make sure that you cut it the whole way through to the bottom. This is for the tail fin.</p> 	<p>Step 2: Cut the front and back wings and the tail from cardboard, as shown.</p> 
<p>Step 3: Push the tail fin into the slot and secure it with staples.</p> 	<p>Step 4: Cut several small pieces that are 1.5 cm x 2.5 cm from the cardboard scraps. Fasten two of these to the front to elevate the nose. You may need the rest later, so keep them on hand.</p> 
<p>Step 5: Secure the wings as shown. First fasten them with staples and then wrap them with nylon thread.</p> 	<p>Step 6: Try your glider. You may need to add or subtract cardboard strips on the nose, change the position of the wings or even experiment with a larger tail part. Decorating with insignia or numbers is optional but fun. And now, your mission is to complete a smooth glide of several metres. Good luck and good flying!</p>