



St. Philip Neri Catholic School  
6401 South Orchard Road  
Linthicum Heights, Maryland 21090-2628  
(410) 859-1212 [www.st.philip-neri.org](http://www.st.philip-neri.org)

**SUMMER REQUIRED READING  
SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS ENTERING EIGHTH GRADE**

Read **Brian's Winter** by Gary Paulson. You are to take notes and must be prepared for class discussion and activities the first week of school.

2. Read one of the books listed below and write a book report on the attached book report form. It will be collected the first day of class.

\*If possible, please type your answers and staple your printed answers to the back of the book report form.

**Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry** by Mildred D. Taylor

Or

**Across Five Aprils** by Irene Hunt

**Books can be borrowed from the public library. If you wish to purchase your own copy, check your local bookstore, or try [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) for great prices on new and used books.**

**Have a great summer and see you next year!**

**Ms. Allison Shaw  
Mrs. Ellen Pultro  
Ms. Sandy Libby**



## Brian's Winter Summer Reading

### Incoming Eighth Graders

Ms. Libby and Miss Shaw

Read the following directions carefully:

This reading guide is to be used before, while and after reading Brian's Winter by Gary Paulsen. The questions provided will help you better understand the readings and come to a deeper appreciation of the work. Read over the questions before beginning each chapter so you are able to stop when necessary as you read the chapter and answer each of the questions.

All answers should be in complete sentences unless otherwise stated (that would include definitions and when a question asks for a list.) Be certain to use correct grammar and conventions in your answers as well as your best vocabulary and descriptive words.

Your answers may be typed or handwritten:

1. If you choose to type your answers you **must** use Times New Roman, 12 point font. Leave one line of space between answers. (As shown here)
2. If you choose to handwrite your answers, be certain to write neatly and legibly in blue or black ink.

All answers must be turned in on the first day of school with your book reports. The answers to the questions should be stapled to the back of this packet.

#### Chapter 1

1. What method of cooking does Brian find to be the best one? Why?
2. What are some signs that Brian misses his life at home?
3. What are some of the signs of winter that Brian is not noticing?
4. Does Brian seem to be satisfied with his situation in life?

#### Chapter 2

1. How would the blue jays go about warning Brian when something was moving in the woods?
2. What mistakes does Brian make concerning storing his food in connection with the bear encounter? What could he have done differently?
3. What is the result of Brian's encounter with the bear? Would you consider him fortunate?

#### Chapter 3

1. Explain how Brian made his bow.
2. Analyze Brian's clothing. Is he ready for winter? What should he do?
3. How does Brian solve the problem of making stronger arrows to kill larger animals?

#### Chapter 4

1. What problem does Brian run into concerning the heavy rain?
2. Brian discovers a way to have a fire inside his shelter. How?
3. How does Brian make his shelter waterproof?

### **Chapter 5**

1. What treasure does Brian find in the woods? Would you consider it a treasure?
2. What was it that bothered Brian about the deer?
3. How does Brian use pine sap to help him?
4. What dangerous animal does Brian meet at the end of the chapter?

### **Chapter 6**

1. What dilemma develops for Brian regarding the skunk?
2. How is Brian coming along with his bow and arrow? What improvements does he make?

### **Chapter 7**

1. What new weapon does Brian create? Why is this an important invention?

### **Chapter 8**

1. With the new arrival of snow, Brian realizes three things. "Would be easy to see. Would be easy to follow. Would be much easier to hunt." Explain why each of these is true.

### **Chapter 9**

1. The first sentence in this chapter says that Brian has a butane lighter. Where did he get this?
2. What does Brian feast his eyes on?
3. Why do you think Brian shakes his head?
4. Why does the hair on Brian's neck stand up?
5. Brian is attacked by something near the end of the chapter. What is it? Describe what happens.

### **Chapter 10**

1. Brian dreams of something holding him down. What does he discover that is actually holding him down when he wakes up?
2. About how big was the moose?
3. What made Brian sad?
4. What oxymoron does Brian use to describe the moose?
5. What does Brian crave?

### **Chapter 11**

1. In this chapter, it rains for eight straight days. What would you do if you were cooped up for that long? You do not have access to video games or the internet.

### **Chapter 12**

1. What problem does Brian have with walking in the snow?
2. What special foods does Brian prepare for his Thanksgiving meal?
3. Brian is shocked when he hears the gunshot. Who or what do you think it is?

### **Chapter 13**

1. What do the gunshots turn out to be?

### **Chapter 14**

1. Brian makes a realization. "The truth was, it could be fatal." What is he referring to and what does he mean by this?
2. What problem does Brian run into when he tries to use his snow shoes? How does he fix the problem?

### **Chapter 15**

1. Brian refers to the killing the deer as "a different kind of murder." What do you think of this statement?
2. Why does Brian wish he had missed the deer?

### **Chapter 16**

1. Brian says he has become a "creature of winter." What is meant by this?
2. What does Brian observe on his exploration? Why doesn't he like what he sees? What effect does this have on him?

### **Chapter 17**

1. Brian discovers a straight line. Why does this grab his attention? What is it?
2. Estimate how long Brian has been in the wilderness.

### **Epilogue**

1. Is Brian happy about being rescued and going home?
2. How has this experience changed Brian?
3. What are some advantages and disadvantages of living by yourself in the wilderness?



*Summer 2019*  
**Book Report Form for Middle School**  
*Due: First Day of School*

*This Book Report is to be completed in blue or black erasable pen. Please use your best print or cursive writing—with no crossing out mistakes. Answers must be written in **complete sentences**. Proper grammar, spelling, and sentence structure are expected. This Book Report is to be completed in your own words. This is a graded Language Arts assignment.*

Your Name (First and Last) \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Your Book \_\_\_\_\_  
*Remember to underline and capitalize important words.*

Author's Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the setting of the story. Where does it take place? Use adjectives and “juicy words” to describe the main location(s) where the main events take place.**  
*Remember to use your best grammar, spelling, and sentence structure!*

---

---

---

---

**List the names of all the characters. (Check the book, and make sure you spell the names correctly!)**

---

---

**What is the name of the main character**

---

**Describe the main character. What is this person like? What character traits describe this person? How would you describe what s/he looks like?**

*Remember to use your best grammar, spelling, and sentence structure!*

---

---

---

---

**Describe what happens in the beginning of the story. What is the main character doing?** *Remember to use your best grammar, spelling, and sentence structure!*

---

---

---

---

**Explain the main events of the story.** *Remember to use your best grammar, spelling, and sentence structure!*

---

---

---

---

---

**What happens at the end of the story?** *Remember to use your best grammar, spelling, and sentence structure!*

---

---

---

---

---

---

**The best part of the story was**

---

---

**I didn't like when**

---

---



**Now that I have finished reading the story, I wonder**

---

---

**I would/would not recommend this story to others because**

---

---

**Please read this statement and sign below:**

*I have done my very best work on this Book Report! I have taken my time to read and understand the story. I have done the very best I can to answer each and every question to my best ability. I have asked for help when I needed it, but this Book Report is written in my own words. I am proud of my work!*

**Please sign your name**

**Parent Signature**

---

---

