Hatchet Chapter 8 Summary

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After falling asleep again, **Brian** dreams of his **father** and then of his friend **Terry**. In the dream, Brian watches his father trying to talk to him, but he is unable to hear the words coming out of his mouth. Then, his father vanishes, and Brian sees Terry in the park, smiling and building a fire in a barbecue pit. He repeatedly points to the fire, frustrating Brian, who does not understand what he means.
Brian examines the wall where the hatchet hit and finds the harder, darker stone that caused the hatchet to spark. He quickly learns that he can make sparks by swinging the hatchet against the stone. Delighted, Brian believes that he will be able to make fire.
Brian wakes up in the night to a growling sound and a terrible, rotting smell. Unable to see in the dark, he hears a slithering sound inside his shelter and throws his hatchet toward the sound. The hatchet misses, sparking where it hits the rock wall, and Brian suddenly feels an excruciating pain in his leg. He screams and sees a dark shape slithering out of the shelter door.
Brian wakes up in the morning light, again hungry and thirsty. While eating raspberries, he sees the hatchet lying where he threw it and picks it up. Then, as the light hits the blade of the hatchet, his dream returns to him, and he remembers the sparks that flew from the hatchet when it hit the rock. He realizes that his dream was trying to tell him that he can make fire with the hatchet.
Brian touches his leg and discovers that he has been attacked by a porcupine, leaving his leg full of sharp quills. Forcing himself to pull the quills out and overcome by the pain, Brian gives in to self-pity again. He starts to cry and feels unable to carry on. After a while, Brian stops crying and realizes what he will come to regard as "the most important rule of survival": self-pity is not helpful.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Hatchet Chapter 9 Summary

1 >	After discovering the sparks, **Brian** is determined to make fire but finds it more difficult than he expected. First, he tries to find tinder for the sparks to ignite, but even small twigs do not work. He even tears his twenty-dollar-bill into pieces, but those do not burn either. Finally, he notices the thin, papery bark of a birch tree and attempts to catch the sparks in bits of the bark. Brian learns that the bark has to be even thinner, so he painstakingly shreds it into tinier pieces using the hatchet. Eventually, he succeeds in getting a few of the sparks to smolder briefly in a nest of birch bark shavings.
2 >	**Brian** smiles at the fire, thinking of it as his friend and guard. He marvels at the achievement and wishes he could tell someone about it. Alone with the fire, he looks out over the landscape and wonders what his **mother** and **father** are doing at that moment.
3 >	After discovering the sparks, **Brian** is determined to make fire but finds it more difficult than he expected. First, he tries to find tinder for the sparks to ignite, but even small twigs do not work. He even tears his twenty-dollar-bill into pieces, but those do not burn either. Finally, he notices the thin, papery bark of a birch tree and attempts to catch the sparks in bits of the bark. Brian learns that the bark has to be even thinner, so he painstakingly shreds it into tinier pieces using the hatchet. Eventually, he succeeds in getting a few of the sparks to smolder briefly in a nest of birch bark shavings.

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