Chapter 6

- 1. Describe Brian's new shelter.
- 2. Why does Brian decide to eat before constructing the lean-to?
- 3. Explain why the author writes the word secret with a capital or uppercase letter.
- 4. Why does Brian stay close to the lake while searching for food?
- 5. Using Brian's description, find out what type of bird was eating the berries.
- 6. Why did Brian almost spit out the berries?

Vocabulary: lean-to, braces, diminish, pulverized, lushly, pace, interlaced, twinge, initial

Chapter 7

- 1. Why did Brian wake up in the middle of the night?
- 2. Why did Brian crawl out of his shelter?
- 3. What memory did he have upon returning to the shelter?
- 4. Why did Brian slap the water with his hand?
- 5. How do we know that Brian is developing an affinity for his shelter?
- 6. What type of food is he delighted to find?
- 7. What does Brian stumble upon in the bush?
- 8. Why does Brian come to a stop after initially fleeing the area?
- 9. What does he discover when he looks back?
- 10. Why did Brian place the hatchet by his head when he went to sleep that evening?

Vocabulary: abdomen, jolts, doubled, vomit, diarrhea, peck, vicious, whine, welted, matted, slits, self-pity, receded, maroon, pits, tart, numb, crude, weathertight, gorge, wuffling, trotted, patch, pouch, drenched, rivulets, seeping, tangy

Chapter 8

- 1. What woke Brian in the middle of the night?
- 2. Explain the cause of the musty smell in his shelter that night.
- 3. What important rule of survival did Brian learn?
- 4. Explain how Brian fought off the intruder.
- 5. What did Brian experience when he removed the quills from his leg?
- 6. Why did Brian feel it was important to make a staff or lance for himself?
- 7. How does Brian interpret his dream?
- 8. What important discovery does Brian make when he examines the rock at the end of this chapter?

Vocabulary: musty, slithering, skittered, bulk, rasping, gingerly, quill, smear, doze, initial, segment, gestures, scootched, wince, staff, lance, granite, imbedded

Chapter 9

- 1. Why was Brian so willing to use money to help start his fire?
- 2. What kind of home did Brian construct?
- 3. How long did it take Brian to build the home?
- 4. What key element was still missing that prevented the fire from igniting?
- 5. Describe how Brian felt when the "nest" finally burst into flames.
- 6. Explain why Brian described his new "friend" as hungry.
- 7. Why did the fire trigger Brian's memory of his encounter with the porcupine?

Vocabulary: ignite, tinder, kindling, sputtered, haunches, exasperation, clump, shredded, tendrils, flammable, wad, smoldered, Cro-Magnon, oxygen, mass, consuming, gratified, brace, flue

Chapter 10

- 1. Why did Brian refuse to leave the fire at first?
- 2. How did he resolve the problem?
- 3. How large was his initial stockpile of wood?
- 4. What unexpected benefits did Brian derive from the fire?
- 5. Describe What Brian found under a pile of sand.
- 6. What did Brian do with his new find?
- 7. Why was he unable to cook his food?
- 8. Provide evidence that despite his perilous situation Brian remains optimistic.

Vocabulary: smeared, banked, eddied, dusk, coals, sloshing, dormant, craved, intensity, pyramid, raw, convulse