

## Hatchet

### Chapter 8

### Suspense

The author of this book knows when to slow the action down to add suspense. What if the action in this chapter were written like the following?

*At first he thought it was a growl. In the still darkness of the shelter in the middle of the night his eyes came open and he was awake and he thought there was a growl.. But there wasn't. It was just a porcupine.*

Now, if this part of the book were written like the sentences above, it would be lacking suspense – that element that creates a drive and a hunger for the reader to keep reading to see what will happen. In order to create suspense, the action has to be put in slow motion.

Complete the following chart to figure out what Gary Paulsen did to create suspense. The first one has been done for you.

<b>Actions before Brian realizes it is a porcupine</b>	<b>How this adds suspense</b>
<i>He thinks he hears a growl.</i>	The reader starts to wonder what it is and begins to make predictions. Is it a bear?

#### **Discussion:**

On page 82, Brian realizes that the most important rule of survival is that “feeling sorry for yourself doesn’t work.”

Do you agree that this is the most important rule of survival? Why or why not?

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