

TITLE OF NOVEL: *Hatchet* **GENRE:** realistic fiction

AUTHOR: Gary Paulsen

READING COMPONENT 10 Days! Every two weeks

DATES READ: 11/14, 11/16, 11,17

TOTAL PAGES: 67

PARENT SIGNATURE:

VOCABULARY COMPONENT

WORD: fantail

DEFINITION: a fan-shaped tail or end.

- the rounded overhanging part of the stern of a vessel, esp. a warship.

USAGE: A bird, it had been, about the size of a very small chicken only with a fantail and stubby wings. (111)

ORIGIN: Origin:
1720–30; fan¹ + tail¹

ANALYSIS COMPONENT

Paulsen really gets into the mind of Brian, the protagonist, and his fear in this section. The reader can feel the anxiety and realization of fear and loneliness by Paulsen’s use of short, choppy, fragmented sentences, mirroring panic in Brian’s mind. “Gone, he thought finally, it was all gone. All silly and gone. No bows, no spears, or fish or berries...” (114). This is an extreme low point for Brian and the reader feels his desperation.

*****Need more t.e.**

Expository Links:

Survival, poisonous berries, animals of the Alaskan wilderness, statistics on small plane crashes.

Name:

HOMEWORK READING LOG WEEK 1

TITLE OF NOVEL: *A LONG WAY GONE*

GENRE: Autobiography

AUTHOR: Ishmael Beah

READING COMPONENT

DATES READ: 11/14, 11/16, 11,17

TOTAL PAGES: 67

Parent signature:

VOCABULARY COMPONENT

WORD: casualty

DEFINITION: noun (pl. **casualties**)

a person killed or injured in a war or accident.

• a person or thing badly affected by an event or situation: *the building industry has been one of the casualties of the recession.*

USAGE: “The last casualty that we saw that evening was a woman who carried her baby on her back.”
(13)

ORIGIN: late Middle English (in the sense ‘*chance, a chance occurrence*’): from medieval Latin *casualitas*, from *casualis* (see **casual**), on the pattern of words such as *penalty* .

ANALYSIS COMPONENT

Beah grabs the reader by ears and drags him into the story with the prologue. He describes a conversation with his high school friends where they question him about his life in Sierra Leone. Beah captures the disconnect between the western world and even young people and the brutal realities of war when the friends ask about if he saw “people running around with guns and shooting each other?” and after he responds affirmatively, the out-of-touch friends reply with a callous “[c]ool” (1). The reader realizes that the story that follows deserves much more than that response. This is an incredibly chilling and revealing opening.

Expository Links:

Sierra Leone, child soldiers.