

“Survival.”

In “Hatchet” by Gary Paulsen, we meet our main character who is a boy named Brian who gets stranded in the Canadian woods because of the pilot, flying him to go see his dad, having a heart attack and the plane that he was on crashing. He is all alone by himself in the woods and he has to fend for himself until someone comes to save him. He has to find food, build a shelter, and try to survive but luckily he has one weapon his mother gave him that he could use, a hatchet. When Brian is in the woods sometimes he feels alone. “My name is Brian Robeson and I am thirteen years old and I am alone in the north woods of Canada.” I feel alone too sometimes.

While Brian is in the woods, he's lost and so far from society and I feel the same too. Brian feels worried but he perseveres and tries to survive the best he can. While he is on his own, he has to cook his own food, tend to his own wounds and has to adventure out. I sometimes have to make my own food when my mom and my step dad go out. I have to wash my own clothes, wash my plates, and take the trash out for the kitchen and me and my sister's bathroom. I can understand what Brian is going through to an extent but I feel empathy for him.

Brian's parents are divorced and that's why he was on the plane in the first place, he was going to see his father. I travel to see my dad on the weekends but I never go out of the city to see him. My parents were never together but I understand what he felt when I found out they were never together. My mom had boyfriends here and there and I used to get attached but I lost trust in them when my mom's last boyfriend (before my step dad) got in a fight with her and he tried to attack me. I remember being scared and upset when they fought and I guess Brian felt the same. I didn't trust my step dad when he and my mom first started dating but I now grew closer to him and I trust him with my life.

Brian and I both have survived natural disasters before. Brian had a tornado hit the woods while I had a hurricane hit Florida while I was visiting family. Brian is thirteen when he survives but I was 5 or 6 when the hurricane hit. I have also survived a tornado this year, it was in Oklahoma and while my family was driving through the state to get back home from the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library that is located in Independence, Missouri. I was 11 when that happened. I remember we had to stop and go into a gas station so we could be in shelter because we were very far away from actual stable buildings.

Me and Brian both have home and parent struggles, but we try to deal with it the best we can. I find us two to be very different but sometimes similar in some ways. Brian has more intense events than me but we share some of the same problems. But I will come through it like Brian does at the end and I will persevere like he does while he's in the woods.