

# The Sign of the Beaver

2019-2020

## SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

Entering 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Due Date: September 23, 2019



**Directions:** Over the summer you are to read the novel *Sign of the Beaver*. You may choose ONE of the following options:

- 1) Answer the questions in the attached pages. These questions will test your basic ability to comprehend what you are reading, as well as your critical thinking skills. Be sure to answer in complete sentences. Use additional paper if necessary.
- 2) Compare and contrast any two characters from the novel in a minimum of four paragraphs. Use the attached rubric as a guide.

This assignment will be graded as a test grade.

## Compare/Contrast Rubric

Stimulating Ideas	1	2	3	4	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Focuses on a two specific characters</li><li>• Contains specific details</li><li>• Presents a balanced number of details for each character</li></ul>					
Logical Organization	1	2	3	4	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Includes a clear beginning that pulls readers into the essay</li><li>• Presents ideas in an organized manner, with an introduction, body, and conclusion</li><li>• Uses transitions to link sentences and paragraphs</li><li>• Flows smoothly from one idea to the next</li></ul>					
Engaging Voice	1	2	3	4	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Speaks knowledgably and/or enthusiastically</li><li>• Contains compare/contrast words</li></ul>					
Grammar/Conventions	1	2	3	4	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sentence structure and variety</li><li>• Spelling, punctuation, capitalization</li><li>• Word choice and usage</li></ul>					
Attention to Directions	1	2	3	4	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Typed (no exceptions)</li><li>• 1 inch margins all around (top, bottom, left, and right)</li><li>• Double spaced</li><li>• 12 pt. font (non-cursive)</li></ul>					

## The Sign of the Beaver

### Summary:

The Sign of the Beaver is a story set in the mid-1700s. Matt, a 13 year old boy, is left alone by his father to guard their newly built home. After getting into multiple scrapes and barely surviving, Matt meets and eventually befriends the members of a local Indian tribe. With their help, Matt is able to survive while waiting for his father to return with the rest of their family. This novel is written by Elizabeth George Speare and is based on a story about a boy left alone for the summer by his family. Matt is able to learn much from his new friends. He also teaches English to the chief's grandson, Attean.

Enjoy the novel!

I look forward to reading your detailed responses!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer each question with a complete sentence. Use your book to help you answer the questions.**

### **Chapters 1-2**

#### **Chapter 1**

1. Why does Matt's father leave him alone in the wilderness?

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2. What two gifts does Matt's father give him before Matt's father leaves?

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3. Why are these gifts so important?

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4. Why does Matt's father tell him to cut notches on sticks?

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#### **Chapter 2**

5. Why was it so important for Matt to keep the fire from burning out?

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6. How does Matt start fires?

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7. What advice does Matt's father give him about relating with Indians?

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8. What did Matt miss that he didn't think he would miss?

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# The Sign of the Beaver

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## Chapters 3-4

### Chapter 3

1. Why does Matt find it hard to trust Ben?

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2. Describe Ben.

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3. Why do you think Ben could not go back to town?

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4. What did Ben take? Why was what Ben took so important to Matt?

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5. Predict what Matt will have to do now that Ben has taken the important item.

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### Chapter 4

6. What or who broke into Matt's house?

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7. What was damaged?

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8. How would you react if you were Matt in this situation?

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## Chapters 5-7

## Chapter 5

1. What advise does Matt's father give Matt about bees?  
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\_\_\_\_\_
2. What food item does Matt's mother persuade Matt and his father to take with them on their trip to the Maine Territory?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What happens to Matt when he tries to get honey from the beehive?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What quick actions by the Indian play an instrumental part in Matt's recovery?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 6

5. Why do you think Matt did not like to Saknis as he did to Ben?  
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\_\_\_\_\_
6. What does the Indian word nkweniss mean?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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7. Why did Matt think Attean was laughing at him?  
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8. What was Matt's gift? Do you think this was an appropriate gift?

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9. Why does Saknis want Attean to learn to read?

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### **Chapter 7**

10. How did Matt feel about teaching reading?

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11. How does Attean feel about his reading lessons with Matt?

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12. What was the problem that Matt discovered as he began teaching?

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## Chapters 8-10

### Chapter 8

1. Does Matt think Attenu will return for the reading lessons?

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2. What book does Matt read to Attenu? Why does he skip sections of the book?

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3. Why does Attenu think the white man, in the story, is not as smart as an Indian?

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### Chapter 9

4. What does Attenu show Matt how to do?

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5. Why did Attenu become upset about the story?

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### Chapter 10

6. Why did Matt change the story?

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7. What word did Matt skip?

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8. How did Attenu catch fish?

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9. What did Attean show Matt to make? Why did he show Matt this?

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10. How did Attean cook the fish?

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## Chapters 11-12

### Chapter 11

1. How many weeks had Matt's father been gone?

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2. What did Attean think of Matt's work?

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3. What causes Attean's dog to have such a strange nose?

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4. Why does Matt not trust Attean's dog?

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5. What is the sign of the beaver?

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6. Why is the sign of the beaver so important to Attean and his tribe?

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7. Why does Matt need to learn to find his way around in the forest?

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8. How does Attean find his way around in the forest?

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9. How did Attean cheer up Matt at the end of chapter 11?

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## **Chapter 12**

10. What did Matt decide he needed?

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11. What was wrong with the bow that Matt made?

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12. How did Attean help Matt?

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13. Describe how Attean made the bow and arrow?

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## **Chapters 13-15**

### **Chapter 13**

1. What did Matt watch for in the forest?

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2. What was trapped?

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3. Why wouldn't Attean free the trapped animal?

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4. Why was Matt upset with Attean?

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5. Describe Matt's daydream.

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6. Name 4 different things that Attean taught Matt how to do.

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#### **Chapter 14**

7. To whom did Attean tell the story of Robinson Crusoe?

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8. Who was Gluskabe?

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#### **Chapter 15**

10. Retell the day of the greatest adventure in your own words.

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11. Why did Attean ask for the bear's forgiveness?

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12. What did Attean say was squaw work?

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13. Why did Matt feel resentful?

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#### **Chapters 16-17**

#### **Chapter 16**

1. List two things that could have happened to Matt's father to delay his journey.

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2. Why would Matt not complain about the walk to Attéan's home?

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3. What made Matt think of Saknis as a king?

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4. Why do you think Attéan would not eat any of the bear?

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#### Chapter 17

5. Describe what the wigwam looked like.

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6. Explain the differences in attitudes of Attéan's grandfather and grandmother toward white men.

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7. Why would it take Attéan so long to get a gun?

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8. What happened to Attéan's father and mother?

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9. Why could Matt never go back to the Indian village without being asked first?

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### Chapters 18-19

#### Chapter 18

1. Why was Matt worried about his family?

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2. What was trapped?

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3. What did Matt decide to do about the trapped animal?

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4. Describe Attean's grandmother.

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5. Was Attean really mad at his dog? How do you know?

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### Chapter 19

6. Why did Attean's grandmother change her mind about Matt?

7. Why did Matt pay close attention to what the squaws were doing?

8. What did Matt lose in the game? Did he ever get it back?

9. What was Matt able to do with Attean's dog that he couldn't do before?

10. Explain why Matt no longer feels alone in the forest.

## Chapters 20-25

### Chapters 20-21

1. Why would Attean not be coming to Matt's cabin for lessons for a period of time?

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2. Describe what Attean must do in order to become a man.

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3. Describe Attean's appearance after he became a man.

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4. What does Saknis want Matt to do?

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### Chapters 22-24

5. Why would Matt not go live with the Indians?

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6. What gift did Attean give to Matt? Why do you think he gave this gift to Matt?

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7. Do you think Matt's family could come to understand Matt's relationship with Attean and the Indians? Why or why not?

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