

Dear Gary Paulsen

When I was a kid I thought I had to watch TV every day. I would come home from school do my homework and watch TV. Then one day I came home from school, and my mom called me down stairs. I can still remember how mad she was. She said she got a phone call from school saying I got kicked out of music class again and if it happened one more time I would fail music. My mom said I couldn't watch TV. She told me to go read. So, I went to my room and found the book Hatchet. I started to read Hatchet and I found myself sucked into the book I couldn't stop reading. I read one half of the book that night. I realized that Brian didn't have TV or any electronics, and I imagined that I could live like that too. In fact, I tried to live with no TV - it only lasted a week.

But what is important is that I started to go outside in the woods. While I was reading Hatchet, I would pretend that I was Brian. I would take a knife with me to the woods and make weapons. I tried to make fires and find animals. I would look at the trees and see if I could find or see the outline of birds just like Brian. I would try to make shelters. One day I made one that was really cool; it had a door and a roof. After I finished the book I wanted to read more. I wanted to know what happened to Brian when he got home.

After I wasn't grounded anymore I still went outside and I didn't watch TV for a while. One day when I came into the house, my mom asks me why I didn't watch TV as much. I told her I didn't need it. In fact I started reading lots of other books. One day I had no more books to read so, I started to flip through the TV channels. I came across the movie, *Hatchet*. I watched the movie. Brian didn't care about the if he got to watch TV or not. I would care if I wouldn't be able to watch TV for 50 something days.

It was hard for me to not watch TV because I have a Dasie and my med. me fat and my bones weak so I couldn't do anything my doctor said and I didn't have a lot of friends. And I didn't get to play sports either so I watched a lot of TV. But after your book I didn't watch as much I Read a Little went out side and stuff. I remember I had a dog once after I Read your book and I would pretend that he was the moose that attacked Brian. He would always jump on me and he was a pretty big dog.

Now I am better at reading I still watch some TV and I get grounded every day pretty much. I play sports a little and I go in the woods a lot still.

Sincerely
Kyle DiMeglio