Sign of the Beaver Chapter Questions

Chapter 1 & 2

1. What state did Matt and his father move from and to which state did they move?
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2. Why did Matt make notches on the stick his father had given him?
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3. What 2 gifts did Matt’s father give him before he left?
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4. Although the cabin was finished, his father had left him with one endless task necessary to finish the cabin completely. What was that task?
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Chapter 3

1. What warnings does the author give that Ben is going to make trouble?
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2. What could Matt have done to prevent the unfortunate ending to the encounter with Ben?
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3. Why was the loss of the gun so serious?
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Chapter 4 & 5

1. Matt made two mistakes that limited his food supply. What were they?
2. Why did Matt decide to get the honey?

3. Find words or phrases that paint a mental picture of the bees swarming around Matt.

4. Did the Indians act in surprising or unexpected ways? Why do you think the Indians were so kind to Matt?

Chapter 6 & 7

1. What did the Indians bring to Matt when he was recovering from the bee stings?

2. What word did Saknis use to describe his relationship with Attean?

3. What did Matt give to Saknis to thank him for saving his life? Why is this important?

4. What is Matt going to teach Attean? How does the first lesson go?
Chapter 8 & 9

1. What did Attean mean when he said, “White man not smart like Indian. Indian not need thing from ship.”?

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2. List 4 things Robinson Crusoe had found on his ship that could have been useful?

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3. What was the first sign that Attean gave that he could be a little friendly?

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4. Why did Atten continue to bring food to Matt even after he could catch his own?

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Chapter 10 & 11

1. What did Attean teach Matt about fishing?

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2. What did Attean do when he threw the fish back? What did it mean to him?

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3. How did Matt know it was well into August?

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4. Describe Attean’s dog?

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5. What does Attean teach Matt when he takes him into the woods?

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Chapter 10 & 11 continued

6. What does a beaver slapping his tail on water sound like?

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7. What does a beaver sign on a tree mean to an Indian?

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8. How are Atteen and Matt like Robinson Crusoe and Friday?

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Chapter 12-14

1. How was the bow that Atteen and Matt made better than the one that Matt made? How does Matt feel about the bow?

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2. How did Matt feel about the Indian code that left an animal to suffer just because of a mark on a tree?

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3. Make a list of things that Matt learned from Atteen?

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Chapter 15 & 16

1. Why did Atteen talk to the dead bear?

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Chapter 15 & 16 continued

2. How did Matt help Attean kill the bear? Was this a way for Matt to earn respect? (p74)

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3. What jobs did Attean think were sqaw work?

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4. Why was Matt invited to the Indian feast? Do you think Attean gave him credit for the victory over the bear?

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Chapter 17 & 18

1. Why did Attean’s grandmother not want Matt to be at the feast?

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2. Do you think Matt will be given another chance to visit the Indian village again? Why does he want to go back?

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3. Why do you think Matt tried to save Attean’s dog?

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4. How did Attean’s grandmother who approval of Matt?

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Chapter 19 - 21

1. How did Matt earn Attean’s respect?
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2. How did Attean prepare himself for his manitou?
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3. Compare and contrast how Attean looked before and after finding his manitou.
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Chapter 22 & 23

1. What gifts did Attean bring Matt from his family?
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2. Which do you think was more difficult to give – Attean’s dog to Matt or Matt’s watch to Attean?
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3. Matt stayed busy preparing for winter? What did he do to prepare?
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Chapter 24 & 25

1. Why was Matt’s family late in getting to him? What happened to the baby his mother had been pregnant with when he left?
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2. In what ways was Matt’s life while his parents were gone like Attean’s finding his manitou?

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3. How is the ending of the story bittersweet for Matt?

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4. If you could would you keep the ending the same or change it? If you’d change it, how would you end the story?

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