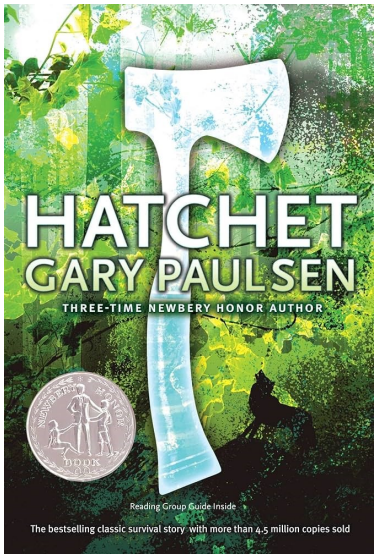
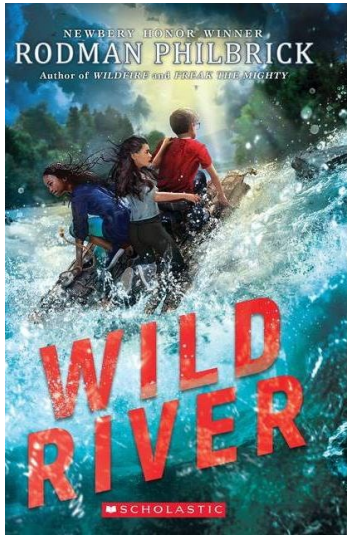


Hatchet by Gary Paulsen is a young adult wilderness survival novel. It follows the story of 13-year-old Brian Robeson, who is the sole survivor of a plane crash in the Canadian wilderness. Armed with only a hatchet, Brian must learn how to survive alone in the vast wilderness. It is the first novel of five in the Hatchet series.



Wild River is a middle-grade survival adventure novel by Rodman Philbrick, part of "The Wild Series," about five middle schoolers stranded on a whitewater rafting trip after their adult guides disappear, forcing them to overcome internal conflict and external dangers like wildlife and the elements to survive.

Trinity Presbyterian School

Rising Fifth Grade

Summer Reading

2026



Summer Reading Requirements

Read two novels:

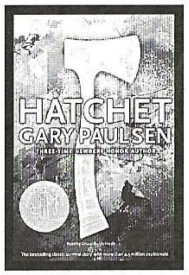
HATCHET by Gary Paulsen

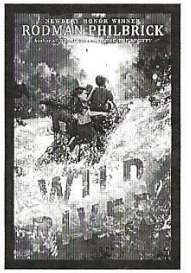
and

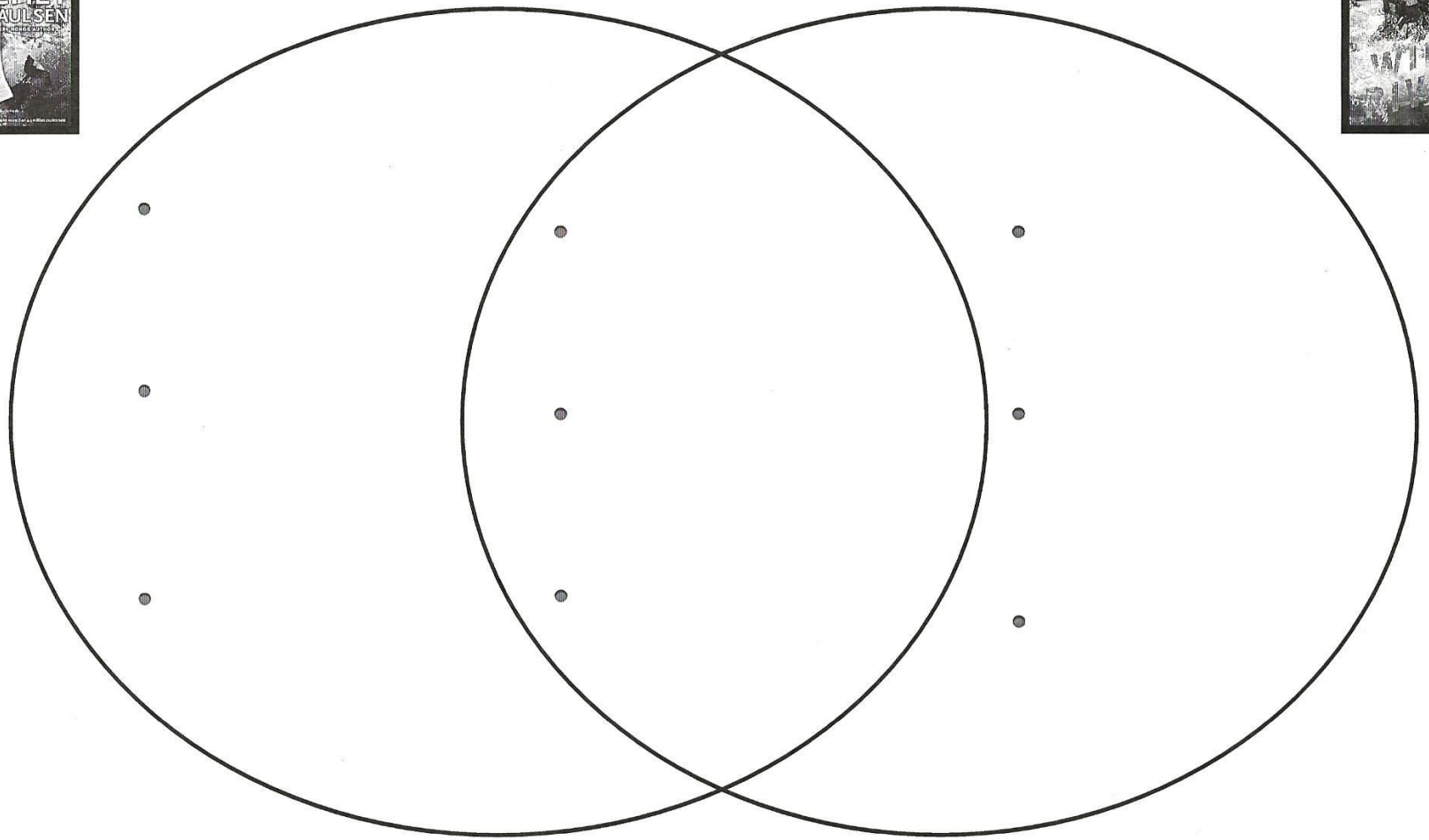
WILD RIVER by Rodman Philbrick

Complete the attached Venn diagram to compare and contrast the novels. In addition, compare a character from **Wild River** to the protagonist in **Hatchet.** This assignment is due on the first full day of school. It will count as a reading grade.

Hatchet vs. Wild River







Which character in Wild River is most like Brian (the protagonist), in Hatchet? Explain.

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