

Mrs. Shawcross  
5th Grade

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Summer Reading Packet

for

*Sign of the Beaver*

by Elizabeth George Speare

# Chapter 1-5

## VOCABULARY PREVIEW

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**puncheon** [pən ch ən] n. a rough board or other length of wood

**proprietor** [p (r) e' prieter] n. the owner of a business

**shambles** ['sh ambəl] n. a state of total disorder

**boggy** [bôg] n. wet muddy ground too soft to support a heavy body

## LITERATURE AND WRITING

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1. Why was Matt's father leaving him alone? Why couldn't he go with his father?

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2. Why was the loss of the gun so serious?

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3. What could Matt have done to prevent Ben from taking the gun?

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4. Matt made two big mistakes that limited his food supply. What were they? How are these two mistakes different?

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5. What might have happened to Matt if the Indians were not there?

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## Chapter 6-11

### VOCABULARY PREVIEW

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The synonym of a word is a word with a similar meaning. The antonym of a word is a word with an opposite meaning. For each vocabulary word, write a synonym and an antonym.

	Synonym	Antonym
1. abruptly	_____	_____
2. nonchalantly	_____	_____
3. disdainful	_____	_____
4. incomprehensible	_____	_____
5. wary	_____	_____
6. glowered	_____	_____
7. disgruntled	_____	_____
8. dumfounded	_____	_____
9. finicky	_____	_____
10. contemptuous	_____	_____

1. Why didn't Matt realize that his ankle was sprained?

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2. Why do you think Matt told the Indians the truth about his father?

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3. Why is the gift of the book important to the Indian?

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4. Why do you think Attean didn't like Matt?

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## Chapter 12-15

### FACT OR OPINION

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A fact is a statement about something. It can be proven as true or false, and it is not based on personal feelings. An opinion cannot be proven; it merely states what a person feels or thinks about something or someone.

Below are a number of passages containing thoughts or statements made by characters in the story. For each passage indicate whether the underlined portion is a fact or an opinion.

*Example:* Matt licked his fingers. His resentment had vanished along with his hunger. “Golly,” he said, “that was the best fish I ever ate.” opinion

1. When [Saknis] saw that Matt was awake, his stern face was lighted by a wide smile. “Good.” It was half word, half grunt. “White boy very sick. Now well.” \_\_\_\_\_
2. Three days later Saknis brought him a pair of moccasins. . . . “Beaver woman make,” Saknis said. “Better white man’s boots. White boy see.” Matt took off his one boot and slipped on the mocassins. Indeed they were better! \_\_\_\_\_
3. His dark stare went from the book to Matt’s face. . . . “White boy read what white man write here?” “Yes,” Matt admitted. “I can read it.” \_\_\_\_\_
4. When Matt hunched himself onto the other stool, the boy’s scowl deepened. Plainly he did not like having the white boy so close to him. Attean had no need to be finicky, Matt thought. He smelled none too sweet himself. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Suddenly the boy broke his silence. “White man’s book foolish,” he scoffed. “Write arm, arm, arm all over paper.” \_\_\_\_\_
6. “This book isn’t a treaty,” he began. “It’s a story.” \_\_\_\_\_
7. “White man not smart like Indian,” he said scornfully. “Indian not need thing from ship. Indian make all thing he need.” \_\_\_\_\_
8. “Indian not use bullet for rabbit,” Attean answered scornfully. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Like Robinson Crusoe, [Matt] had thought it natural and right that the wild man should be the white man’s slave. \_\_\_\_\_
10. . . . Crusoe and his companion did go about together, sharing their adventures. Only, Matt thought, it would have been better perhaps if Friday hadn’t been quite so thickheaded.  
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Questions:

1. Both Matt and Attean teach each other. What does Matt teach Attean? Why does Saknis want Attean to learn this?

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2. What does Attean teach Matt? Why does Matt need to know this?

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3. Matt and Attean begin to develop a friendship. What things do they do together that they both enjoy doing?

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4. Matt struggles with learning to give respect to other people, and he discovers that historically, people have not always received the respect they deserve. Look up the following verses in the Bible and explain what each says about showing respect:

Romans 12:10

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Romans 13:7

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1 Peter 2:17

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# Chapter 16-19

## VOCABULARY PREVIEW

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**hideously** ['hidēəs] adj. ugly or disgusting to look at

**ramshackle** ['ram, sh akəl] adj. is a state of severe disrepair

**placid** ['plasid] adj. not easily upset or excited

**retort** [ri'tôrt] v. say something in answer to a remark or accusation, typically in a sharp or angry

## LITERATURE AND WRITING

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1. Why was Matt invited to the Indian feast?

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2. Why do you think Matt tried to save Attean's dog?

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5. Knowing how the Indian grandmother felt about white men, why did she take care of Matt?

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6. How did Attean prepare himself for his manitou?

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7. What would be a good new name for Attean if he finds his manitou?

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# Chapter 20-25

## VOCABULARY PREVIEW

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**manitou** ['mani,tōō] n. a good or evil spirit as an object of reverence

**boisterous** ['boist(ə)rəs] adj. noisy, energetic, and cheerful

**feat** [fēt] n. an achievement that requires great courage, skill, or strength

**clamor** ['klamər] n. a loud and confused noise

## LITERATURE AND WRITING

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1. Do you think Matt was foolish to wait for his parents to return?

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2. Attean gave Matt a special farewell present of his dog. What special farewell present would you give to your best friend?

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3. Do you think Matt was lonely? Why or why not?

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4. What were the winter dangers for Matt?

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5. What do you think Matt's family will think was the best story Matt had to tell? Why?

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