

# The Sign of the Beaver

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## Main Characters

Matt- A 12 year old boy that was left behind in the forest to watch over the cabin

Ben- A thief that steals Matt's father's rifle

Saknis- Chief of the Beaver clan.

Attean- Saknis's grandson; teaches Matt how to hunt and fish.

Maria- Attean's sister, she helped Matt save Attean's dog

Sarah- Matt's sister

1. What foods did Matt and his father plant behind the cabin?  
*Corn and pumpkins.*
2. What river did Matt and his father take to get to Maine?  
*Penobscot River*
3. How long was Matt's father planning to be gone?  
*6 or 7 weeks*
4. What was the chimney made out of?  
*Small logs, and lined with clay*
5. What gifts did Matt's Dad give him before he left?  
*His Grandfather's big, silver watch and a rifle*
6. Where were the Indians said to have moved?  
*Canada*

7. What animals got into Matt's crops? Crows in the day and night critters during the night.
8. Where did Matt say his father was when he met Ben?  
*Down at the river getting supplies*
9. What did Matt have for dinner when Ben came?  
*Molasses, corn cake and stew*
10. How much did Ben say the rifle was worth?  
*A passel of beaver*
11. What did Ben say he did with the Redskins when he was Matt's age?  
*Hunted and trapped with them*
12. How old is Matt?  
*12*
13. What is Matt's bed made out of?  
*Hemlock boughs*
14. What type of berry bush did Matt find?  
*Blueberry*
15. What was Matt most fond of and his mother made sure they brought on their move?  
*Molasses*
16. Why did Matt lose all of his salt, flour and molasses?  
*A bear broke into his house and ate the molasses and spilled the flour and salt.*
17. Where did Matt and his family live before they moved north?  
*Massachusetts*

18. Where did Matt and his dad travel to and eventually settle?  
*Maine Territory*
19. Why didn't Matt's mother travel?  
*It would have been difficult because she was pregnant.*
20. Why was Matt so sore every night?  
*He cleared trees and help his dad build a log cabin.*
21. How many rooms were in the log cabin that Matt and his dad built?  
*One*
22. How did Matt track the time while away?  
*He notched a stick every day, 7 notches per stick, one stick per week*
23. How did Matt start a new fire when he let his burn out?  
*He had to strike a flint to create a spark, and then he blew on the spark to coax a flame.*
24. What did Matt's dad tell him to do if he should meet an Indian?  
*He told him to be polite and respectful, just like he would be to a minister.*
25. What possession of Matt's did Ben admire by whistling "mighty fine piece."?  
*Matt's rifle.*
26. Who did Ben say he was going to settle in with?  
*The redskins...meaning the Indians*
27. Why was Matt right to distrust Ben?  
*Ben ended up stealing his rifle.*
28. What attacked Matt so fiercely he almost died?  
*Bees*

29. What treaty did Saknis make with Matt? *Attean would bring food for Matt and Matt would teach Attean how to read.*
30. What book did Matt read to Attean? *Robinson Crusoe*
31. What did Matt use to write on, since he didn't have any paper? *A wide piece of Birchbark*
32. What was the first animal Matt trapped in his homemade snare? *A partridge*
33. Why was Attean so upset when Matt read about Robinson Crusoe meeting Friday? *Friday was an Indian, and in the book he bowed down to Robinson Crusoe as a slave would. Attean said an Indian would never do that.*
34. What did Attean use to fish? *A homemade spear*
35. What did Matt and Attean find trapped when they wandered into the Turtle Clan territory? *A fox*
36. What are the differences in the way white men and Indians hunt? *White men use guns and iron traps where as Indians use snares and bow and arrows. Indians hunt only for food and use all the parts for various things where as white men hunt for skin and profit and waste the other parts.*
37. What did Attean show Matt that could be made into a rain cape? *A wide strip of birchbark*
38. What is the Indian phrase for "good and nothing"? *piz wat*

39. Even though Attean wasn't learning how to read, what did Matt teach him? *Attean was learning how to speak the English language with greater ease.*
40. What is a kogw? *It's the Indian term for porcupine.*
41. After Matt finished reading Robinson Crusoe to Attean, what book did he read next? *The bible.*
42. What story in the bible did Matt read to Attean first? *Noah and the Ark.*
43. What did Matt do to distract the bear? *He threw his dead rabbit at it.*
44. What did Attean do after he killed the bear? *He spoke over the bear, asking the bear to forgive him and to say they didn't come to hunt.*
45. What story did Attean tell at the feast Matt was invited to? *Attean told the story of how he and Matt killed the bear.*
46. What did Matt and all the Indians do after Attean told his story? *They danced and then they feasted on the stew made from the bear.*
47. Why didn't Attean's grandmother want Matt to come to the feast? *She does not like white men because a white man killed her daughter...Attean's mother. Then Attean's father left to find the white man who did it, and he never came back.*
48. What was the second animal Matt found in the trap in the Turtle clan territory? *Attean's dog*

49. Why was Attean's grandmother so concerned about the cut on Matt's hand? *She was concerned there might have been poison on the trap.*
50. Why does Attean's sister have a Christian name? *She was baptized by a priest.*
51. What changed Attean's grandmother's opinion of Matt? *She was impressed that a white boy would go so far to save an Indian boy's dog.*
52. What did Matt lose in the game he played with the Indian boys? *His shirt*
53. Why did Attean have to go away, all alone? *He had to go and find his manitou. This is a rite of passage for Indian boys to become men and hunters.*
54. What is a manitou? *A spirit of sorts that come to an Indian boy's dreams before he can become a man.*
55. Why did Attean look different after he found his manitou? *His long black hair was shaved except for a small patch that was braided into a topknot. He stood straighter and taller.*
56. What did Attean receive once he became a man? *A brand new rifle.*
57. When Saknis came back to Matt's cabin in late fall, what did he want Matt to do? *He wanted Matt to go north with the Indians.*
58. Why didn't Matt go with the Indians? *He wanted to be at the cabin when his family came. It was his duty to take care of the place until his family returned.*

59. How did Matt finally earn Attean's respect? *By refusing to go with the Indians and staying and doing hi duty.*
60. What gifts did Attean and his family give to Matt? *Saknis gave him snowshoes, his grandmother gave him a small birch basket filled with maple sugar, and Attean gave him his dog.*
61. What did Attean call Matt when he gave him the dog that filled Matt with joy? *He called him "medabe" which means white brother.*
62. What did Matt give Attean as a going away present? *His grandfather's watch*
63. What did Matt use to make new pant? *A blanket*
64. What did he use to make mittens? *Rabbit skin*
65. What did Matt make for his mother? *Wooden trenchers, bowls, a brush for cleaning the dishes, and a birch broom.*
66. What did Matt make for the baby? *A cradle*
67. What did Matt male for his sister Sarah? *A cornhusk doll*
68. Why was Matt's family so late in coming? *They all got sick with typhus.*
69. What happened to the baby? *The baby only lived for 5 days.*

**In what book.....**

Did a father leave his 12 year old boy by himself in the wilderness?

Did a boy get attacked by bees?

Was there a white boy who became friends with an Indian boy?

Did two boys kill a bear?

Did a boy learn how to make his own bow and arrows, and hooks for fishing?

Was there a dog with no name?

Did an Indian chief make a treaty with a white boy?