

CLAN EDUCATORS' GUIDE

BY SIGMUND BROUWER



ABOUT THE BOOK

The classic survival story gets a prehistoric twist in this gripping middle-grade adventure featuring a boy and his saber-toothed cub, perfect for fans of *Hatchet*.

Part survival story, part animal-human friendship story and part redemption story, *Clan* follows the journey of Atlatl and the saber-toothed cub he rescues from a dire wolf attack.

Injured as a child, Atlatl dreams of one day earning his father's respect as a hunter. But when Atlatl brings the young saber tooth to his Clan, it leads to a devastating moment of torn loyalties between Atlatl and his father — a moment that will change their lives forever.

Then an epic disaster strikes, and suddenly Atlatl has to rely on wits, ingenuity and bravery to face his biggest foe yet and try to save what remains of his Clan.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sigmund Brouwer writes for both children and adults. He is the best-selling author of nearly thirty novels, with close to four million books in print. His books have won the Christy Book of the Year and the Arthur Ellis award, as well as being nominated for two TD Children's Literature Awards and the Red Maple Award. In the last ten years, he has given writing workshops to students in schools from the Arctic Circle to inner city Los Angeles. Sigmund lives in Red Deer, Alberta.

This guide was created by Jessica Longthorn, a teacher-librarian from Simcoe County District School Board.

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BEFORE READING QUESTIONS

1. If you were alone in the wilderness and expected to live off the land, what would you take with you? Explain.
2. If you could have any animal to comfort you on your wilderness journey, what animal would you choose and why? Explain.

BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES

1. Create a BreakoutEDU game to introduce the book to the class. See www.breakoutedu.com/ for more information on how to run a game.
2. What are provocations? Provocations provoke thoughts, discussions, questions, interests, creativity and ideas. Before reading, set up a table in your classroom/school library with provocations connecting to the book. A great way to hook students! Explore the Reggio Emilia approach for further information about provocations.

DURING READING QUESTIONS

1. If you were asked by the author to rename this book, what would you call it? Defend your title.
2. Give an example of how Atlatl shows a growth mindset. Explain using evidence from the text as well as your own ideas.
3. Which character(s) in the book do you think exhibit(s) good character? Explain using your own ideas and examples from the text. If possible, use your school character traits for reference.

4. Is Takhi a good friend to Atlatl? Defend your answer.
5. Powaw was envious of his cousin Atlatl. In what ways does he act out to show he feels this way?
6. Who was Wawetseka and what was her job within the Clan?
7. What was the significance of the water marker? Why was Wawetseka so concerned about it?
8. What was Atlatl's role when the men of the Clan were hunting?
9. What was meant by the Gathering of the Clans?
10. If you were Atlatl, what would you say in order to persuade the Council of Elders to let you keep Cub?
11. What were the roles of women within the Clan? Men?
12. Give an example from the text when Atlatl showed loyalty towards the sabre-toothed cub.
13. Do you believe Atlatl should have been banished from the Clan? Why or why not? Explain.
14. What qualities does Atlatl possess that would make him a great clan leader? Explain using evidence from the text as well as your own ideas.
15. When does Atlatl's relationship with his father change for the better?

16. Why do you think Nootau finally admits that it was his fault the Clan was gone?
17. What is the purpose of a Council of Judgement? Why is it held during daylight?
18. Nootau realizes how poorly he treated Atlatl. He eventually asks Atlatl for his forgiveness. Nootau admitted that he and his brother Banti used Atlatl and Powow as they fought for power and position in the Clan. Why do you think Atlatl forgave his father so easily? If you were Atlatl, would you have forgiven Nootau? Why or why not? Defend your position.

- 19.
- “The weak can never forgive.
Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.”*
—Mahatma Gandhi

Do you agree or disagree with the above quote? Why or why not? How does the above quote relate to Atlatl and his relationship with his cousin Powow? Explain using evidence from the text as well as your own ideas.

- 20.
- “The Elders gave us the story of the Turtle to protect us.
We were meant to pass it down to others. It doesn’t matter if you
believe in the Turtle god — it’s the story that matters.”*
—Atlatl

What do you think Atlatl meant by this quote? Why is believing in the power of story so important? How did the power of story impact Nootau?

AFTER READING ACTIVITIES

1. The Great Flood significantly impacted Atlatl and his clan members. What happened during the Great Flood? Historical significance? Time line? Impact on clans and the surrounding environment? Research and present your findings to the class using a graphic organizer of your choice.
2. The author includes a notes section in the back of the book. Explore a topic further and present your findings in a news report format using the green screen app (DoInk or iMovie).
3. Write a character sketch on a character of your choice. How does your character progress over the course of the book?
4. Choose a scene in the story and re-create using a form of media of your choice (minecraft, lego, plasticine, diorama or drawing).
5. Research how glaciers are being impacted by climate change. Research how many ice ages have occurred over the history of the planet.
6. Cub was Atlatl's loyal companion and protected him. Research how animals have helped humans past and present.

POSSIBLE TOPICS

Service and/or emotional support animals
Animals in World War II
Military/Navy Seal Team Dogs
Police K-9 Unit

7. Oral tradition is sacred among Indigenous communities in Canada and the United States. Learn about the different stories that were told by elders among indigenous communities. If possible, invite an elder or indigenous community member to visit your school library or classroom. Please read the following for etiquette around re-telling indigenous oral traditions/stories.
<https://indigenousofcanada.ca/article/oral-tradition/>

8. Create a new cover for the book using an online media program or on paper.
9. Tweet the author and tell him what you liked about Clan.
10. Create a book trailer for Clan using iMovie.
11. You have been asked to interview Atlatl. What questions would you ask him about his journey and the experience of raising a sabre-toothed cub? Work with a partner to create dialogue between the interviewer and Atlatl. Present your interview to your class in person or as a video recording.
12. Make a mini model of shelter that might be used by Clan members. Use the design thinking model process (empathize, define, ideate, prototype, and test).
13. Research your family background and learn about your ancestors and where they came from.

FURTHER RESOURCES:

Link to Canadian Geographic Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada (can be purchased through Amazon or Indigo)

<https://indigenouspeoplesatlasofcanada.ca/>

Link to Canadian Geographic Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada Giant Floor Map

http://www.canadiangeographic.com/educational_products/ipac_floor_map.asp

Link to Canadian Geographic Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada Giant Floor Map (Pre-Map Activities and Resource Lists)-

http://www.canadiangeographic.com/educational_products/activities/ipac_gfm/Info_Resources_EN.pdf

Aboriginal Perspectives: A Guide To The Teacher's Toolkit: Teaching Resources and Strategies for Elementary and Secondary Classrooms

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/aboriginal/toolkit.html>