The Sign of the Beaver Reading Response Questions

Using a separate sheet of paper, answer the following questions in complete sentences. Your responses may be typed or hand written. Don’t forget to proofread and edit your work.

Chapter 1 - 4
1. Why is Matt’s father leaving him alone? Why couldn’t he go with his father?
2. Matt had a hunch about Ben. What signs did the author give you that made you feel uneasy about Ben?
3. Why was the loss of Matt’s gun so serious?

Chapters 5 - 10
4. Why do you think the Indians helped Matt after the bees stung him?
5. Why does Saknis want Attean to learn to read? Why was Attean against learning to read?
6. Why do you think Attean didn’t like Matt?
7. Why did Attean get angry while listening to Robinson Caruso?
8. Why was Attean’s way of fishing better than Matt’s way?
9. Do you think Attean was trying to embarrass Matt while fishing? Why or why not?
10. Do you think they are becoming friends? Please explain using evidence from the book.
11. How is Matt forced to think differently about things after working with Attean?

Chapter 11-15
12. What skills did Attean teach Matt? Who do you think was learning more, Attean or Matt?
13. Which do you think is more important the skills that Matt has or the skills that Attean has?
14. What is the sign of the beaver? What does it mean and what is its purpose? Why is it important to the story?
15. How did Attean teach Matt to prevent him from getting lost in the forest? How is this way different from the white man’s way?
16. How are the hunting methods and reasons for hunting different between the white man and the Indian?
17. How were Matt and Attean different from Robinson Caruso and Friday?
18. What did Matt learn from Attean? Do you think Attean learned from Matt?

Chapter 16-19
19. Why was Matt invited to the Indian Feast? Do you think Attean gave him credit for the victory over the bear? Why or why not? Prove it using evidence from the book.
20. Explain the differences in the attitudes of Attean’s grandfather and grandmother toward white men. What was the reason for their different feelings?
21. Why did Attean’s grandmother and Attean’s dog change their minds about Matt?
22. Why was Matt feeling content? (Pg. 104)

Chapter 20- 25
23. How did Matt ultimately gain Attean’s respect? Do you think Matt made the right decision? Why or why not?
24. How did Matt prepare for the winter?
25. How does Attean become a man? How does Matt become a man?
26. Why won’t his family be able to understand about the Indians?

After Reading
27. What was the author’s message? What do you think is the most important thing to remember in this story?
28. What did Matt learn from his experience?
29. What did you learn about Indians from this book? What would you like to learn?