

Bookfolio for **The Sign of the Beaver**

Author: [Elizabeth George Speare](#)

First Publication Date: 1983

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin

ISBN: 0395338905

Recommended for: [Grades 4-6](#)

Classification: Fiction

Genre: [Historical Fiction](#)

MultiCulture: Native American

Story Summary: In the early days of colonial America, Matt, the hero of the story, stays behind at his family's newly built cabin in the Maine wilderness while his father returns to Massachusetts to get the rest of the family. Matt's inexperience causes him to lose his gun and most of his food supply. He is rescued from a swarm of bees by the chief of the Beaver Clan, who treats his stings and works out a treaty whereby Matt is to teach the Indian's grandson, Attean, to read English. At first, the Indian boy resents this idea but he is won over when Matt reads from his book, ROBINSON CRUSOE. Attean shows Matt many survival skills, including how to plant seeds and prepare food for storage. Matt is accepted by the Indians after he helps Attean kill a bear and rescues Attean's dog. The tribe offers to take Matt along when the clan must find new hunting grounds. Matt stays behind even though his father is several weeks late returning to the cabin. When the family is finally reunited, Matt tells them about his Indian brother, Attean.

Read-aloud Recommendation: Chapter 6, (pages 26-31)

The skills for each activity are identified by the following abbreviations:

R=Reading, W=Writing, S=Speaking, L=Listening, D=Drawing

The Sign of the Beaver - Independent Activities	Skills
1. Matt's Journal (Writing a journal entry)	D , W
2. From a Short Anecdote (Creating a new plot)	S , W
3. About Attean (Writing a new chapter)	S , W
4. The New Kid on the Block (Writing about a personal experience)	W
5. Survival Skills (Writing about a story element)	R , W
6. Beavers (Writing a report)	D , R , S , W
The Sign of the Beaver - Group Activities	Skills
1. What's in a Sign (Drawing symbols and signs)	D , S
2. Illustrating the Story (Preparing a plan for story illustrations)	S , W
3. "A New Beginning" (Rewriting a chapter)	W
4. Wigwams and Cabins (Making a diorama)	D , R
5. Sharing Crusoe (Presenting a read-aloud)	R , S
6. "Let's Talk About..." (Discussing the story)	L , S

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