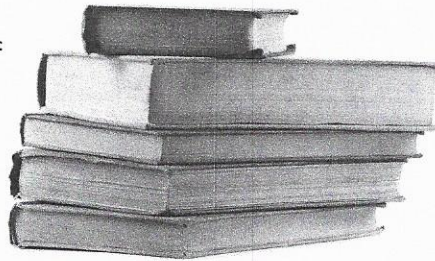


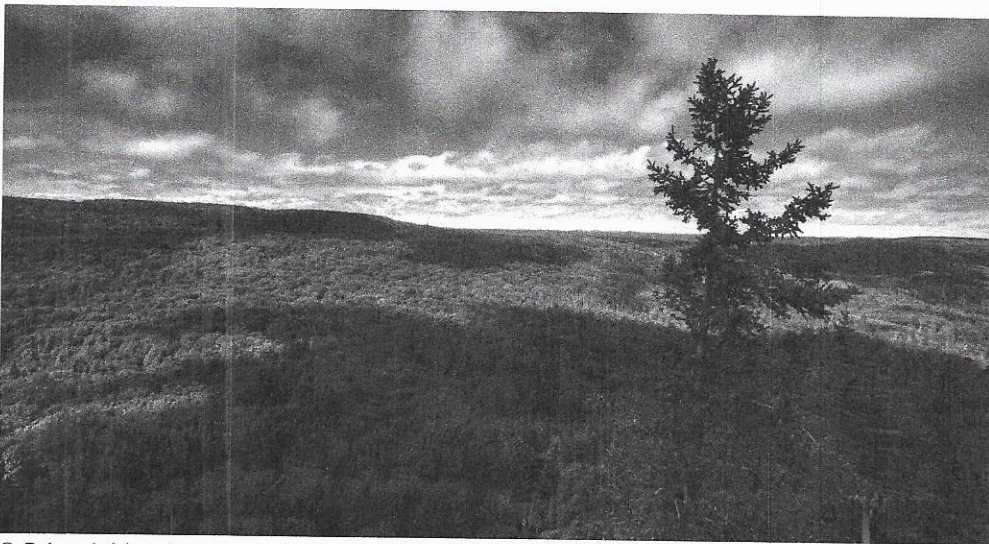
Gary Paulsen

- 1 Gary Paulsen was born May 17, 1939. He was the only son of his parents. When his father, a professional soldier, fought in World War II, Paulsen and his mother rarely saw him. After the war, the family moved often because of his father's work, and both of his parents became abusive drunks.
- 2 Gary Paulsen's parents fought all of the time, and there was never enough money for food and clothing. At an early age, Paulsen began to work in order to pay for his own things. One night, he passed the local library on his way home from a cold evening of selling newspapers. The library was warm inside, so he went in and was surprised when the librarian gave him a library card and asked him if he wanted a book.
- 3 He took the book home and returned it a few days later. The librarian gave him another book, and then another and another, and Paulsen found himself, for the first time, reading books. He loved it. He was able to retreat from his parents' fights by going to the basement of their apartment house to read. He read everything he could find.
- 4 He was not a good student, though. Because he moved so much and had so little money, school was hard. He had trouble making friends, and he spent his time working. Often, he was just too tired to pay attention. His parents were disappointed and they fought about who was to blame for Paulsen's failures.



Gary Paulsen

- 5 When Gary Paulsen was 14 years old, he ran away from home. He didn't have any money or any place to live, so he joined a carnival and travelled from city to city until he began to live on his own. Sometimes, he lived on the streets; other times, he would spend time with aunts and uncles, working on their farms.
- 6 Over the years, Gary Paulsen worked as a ranch hand, truck driver, construction worker, and sailor. He joined the Army and learned about electronics, but he found that he didn't like that work. He then worked for a magazine, and learned how to write.
- 7 Gary Paulsen loved writing. He thought it might be the right job for him, so he quit his job in California and moved back to Minnesota, where he rented a cabin and spent a winter writing his first novel.
- 8 He and his family continued living in Minnesota, and Paulsen often had to trap animals, both so his family could eat and so that they could sell the fur to make money. He spent a lot of time in the woods by himself.



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Gary Paulsen

- 9 Paulsen found peace in the woods. It was quiet, and it was dangerous. He learned to see the beauty of nature and also to respect its challenges. He learned how to keep warm, how to find food, how to survive.
- 10 He kept writing, though, and after years of having no money, he finally wrote his first successful book, *The Foxman*, in 1977. Nine years later, he won an award for his book, *Dogsong*, and a year later, he published his most famous book, *Hatchet*.
- 11 During that time, Paulsen got interested in dog sledding. He and his dogs raced the Iditarod, a 1200-mile race in Alaska. This race is long and difficult, and each day of racing is more than 18 hours long. Finally, Paulsen developed problems with his heart and had to quit racing.
- 12 Since that time, Gary Paulsen has continued to write books. He has written books about history and about modern times. Many people love his writing.
- 13 He presently has a home in New Mexico, where he loves the warm winters. For part of each year, he and his wife sail around the world on their sailboat. Life is good.

From:

<http://www.trelease-on-reading.com/paulsen.html>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/08/26/books/26paul.html>

<http://www.randomhouse.com/features/garypaulsen/about.html>