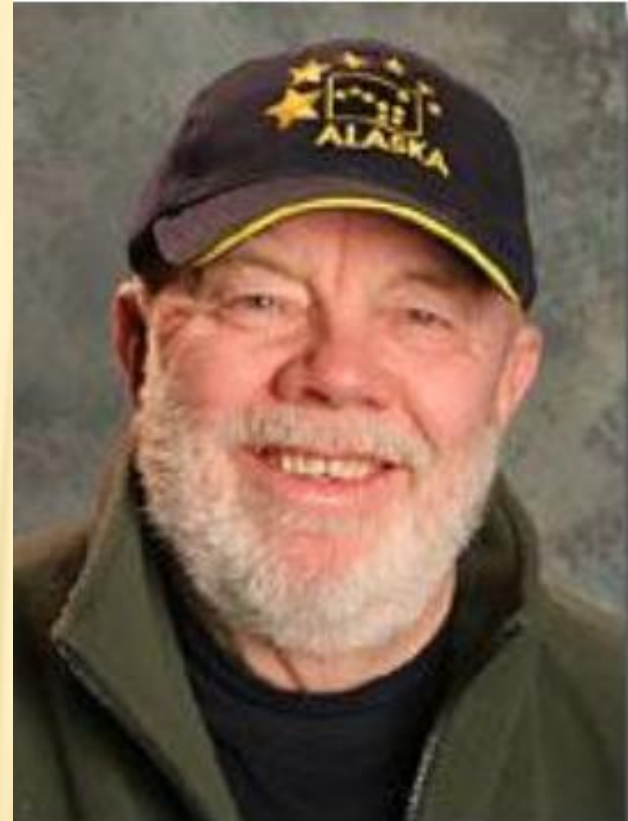


# Welcome to Author Study

Presented by Ms. Williams

Today's Featured Author:

# GARY PAULSEN



<https://podcast.purvisy.k12.pa.us/groups/phe/library/wiki/1a367/images/d3be1.bg>

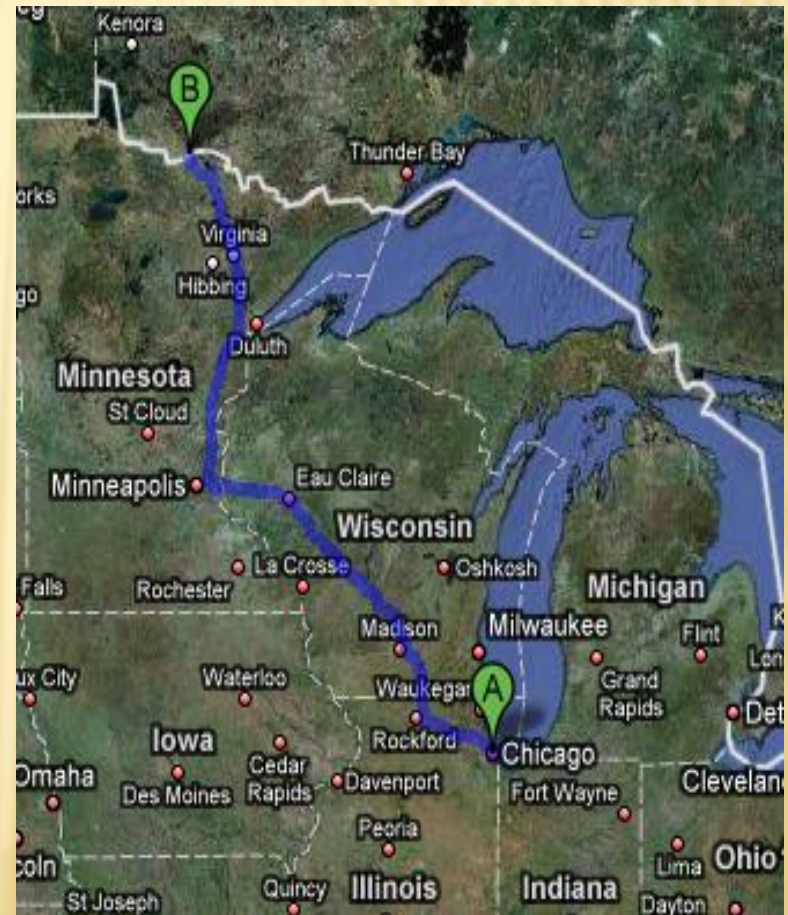
# CHILDHOOD

- ✘ Born May 17, 1939
- ✘ First 7 years lived with mother in Chicago
- ✘ Father (Oscar) an Army officer
- ✘ Mother worked in ammunition plant
- ✘ Gutsy child by nature



# CHILDHOOD

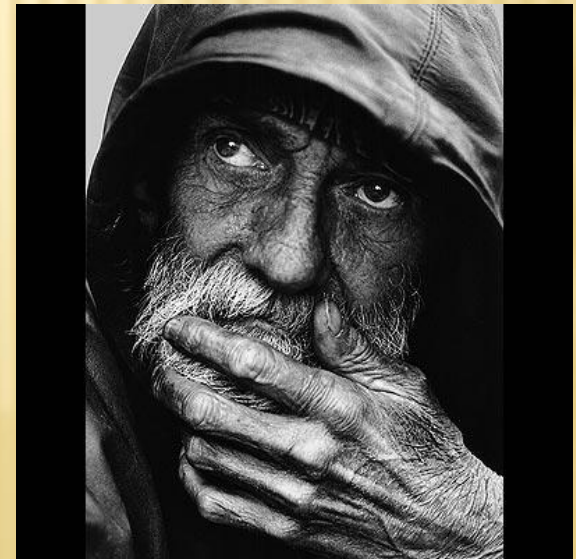
- ✘ Age 5, note pinned to jacket
- ✘ Sent to grandmother in International Falls, MN
- ✘ Lived on a working cookcamp  
(686 miles, 12+ hour drive)



# CHILDHOOD

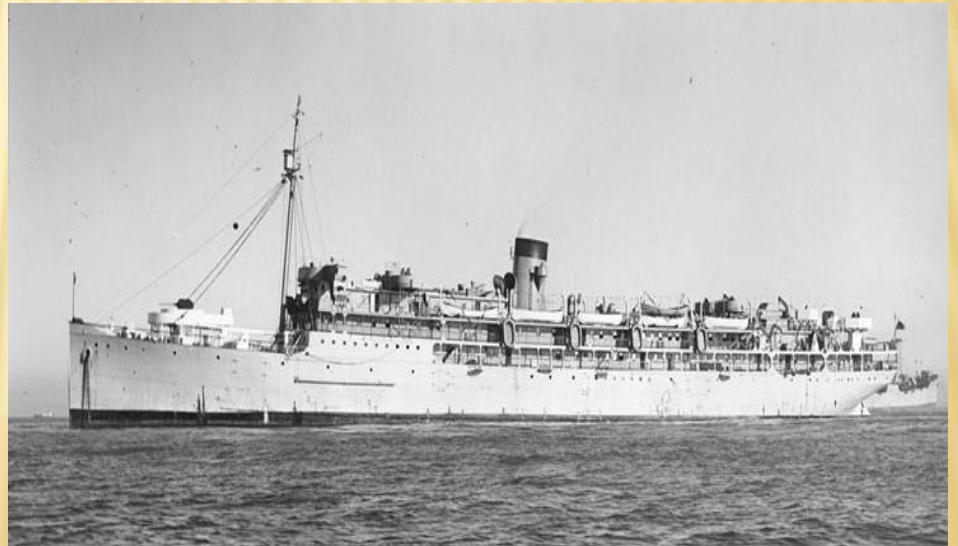
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- ✘ Cookcamp – start of lifelong desire for wilderness, (woodlands, mountains, deserts, canyons, rivers and seas.)
- ✘ Grandmother wrote letters to daughter (Eunice)
- ✘ Returned to Chicago with mother (Eunice)
- ✘ Nabbed by homeless man,



# GETTING TO THE PHILIPPINES

- ✘ No flights available to get to San Francisco
- ✘ Road with soldiers
- ✘ Broke out with Chicken Pox
- ✘ Was allowed to board ship in spite of contagious disease
- ✘ Quarantined alone  
(7 yrs old)



# GETTING TO THE PHILIPPINES

- ✘ Witnessed plane going down near ship
  - + Military families on way home to U.S.
  - + Gruesome site of injured the water
  - + Sharks arrived
  - + Bottoms of rescue boats bright red



# LIVING IN THE PHILIPPINES

- ✘ 1946 -- 1949
- ✘ Received first dog
- ✘ “Snowball” saves his life
- ✘ Takes dare – nearly costs him his tongue



# LIVING IN THE PHILIPPINES

- ✘ Nearly drowned
- ✘ Schooling was spotty
  - + no friends his own age
  - + home life was empty
  - + parents growing apart
- ✘ Snowball -- his parent, protector
- ✘ Snowball is killed





# RUNAWAY YEARS

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“My life was a horror”

- ✘ Moved to D.C.
- ✘ Then on to northern Minnesota
- ✘ Bounced around to relatives
  - + escape drinking parents
- ✘ “Harris and Me” based on summer experiences with cousin

# RUNAWAY YEARS

---

“My life was a horror”

- ✘ Shy, lonely, no friends, family troubles
- ✘ 12 yrs old -- touched deer for popularity
- ✘ Tracked until exhausted
- ✘ “Tracker” based on experience



# RUNAWAY YEARS

---

- ✘ High School -- skipped classes
- ✘ Spent nights, weekends & sometimes weeks in woods
- ✘ Turning point of life occurred at 14 yrs. old



# RUNAWAY YEARS

- ✘ Ran away from home at 14 yrs.
- ✘ Joined carnival
- ✘ Worked bowling alley as a pin setter
  - + Target of gangs on way home
  - + Leaves via roof tops
  - + Meets Dirk in the dark
  - + Saved by Dirk



# RUNAWAY YEARS



- ✘ Caught stealing skis
  - + Dropped 7 miles out of town
  - + Picks him up at edge of town
  - + J.D. (police officer) became substitute father
- ✘ At 16 yrs old--runs away to North Dakota
  - + work beet fields with migrant workers
- ✘ Moves to Waseca, MN (near S. border of MN) Birdseye frozen foods

# 1959: BAD TIMES

- ✘ Forged parents signature to join Army
- ✘ Knew within 4 hours made mistake
- ✘ Lived in cabin, hunted for himself & sold first manuscript “Some Birds Don’t Fly”
- ✘ Began to drink like his parents



# 1959: BAD TIMES

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- ✘ Bounced from job to job
- ✘ Meets Ruth (3<sup>rd</sup> wife) at post office
- ✘ Hit rock bottom when he came to and found his 2 year old son sitting next to him
- ✘ Quit drinking cold turkey

# LIFE IN DOG YEARS

- ✘ Dirt poor
- ✘ Lived simply, provided own food, hunting, trapping, growing
- ✘ Given 4 dogs – pulled sled to check traps
- ✘ Began training for sledding





# LIFE IN DOG YEARS – INCIDENT #1

- ✘ Fell through ice
- ✘ Saved by “Cookie” and pack
- ✘ Strips immediately
- ✘ Kerosene poured on tree, lit to keep zippers from freezing



# LIFE IN DOG YEARS – INCIDENT #2

- ✘ Falls off sled
- ✘ Rips open knee cap
- ✘ Dogs turned back & cleaned wound
- ✘ Pull him home 20 miles to safety



# LIFE IN DOG YEARS – INCIDENT #3

- ✘ Bear approaches Ruth
- ✘ Prepared to attack,
- ✘ Scrawny dog attacks
- ✘ Ruth plucks dog from bear



# EARLY IDITAROD TRAINING

Starts collecting & trading dogs  
Many initial wild rides



- + Dragged behind tipped sled
- + Pants catch fire from matches in pocket
- + Dogs turn suddenly, sled does not and hits tree
- + Rabbit crosses path, dogs divert course & chase it

# FIRST IDITAROD 1983

---

- ✘ Lead dog Wilson jumps gun, leads team through crowds, garbage cans, fences
- ✘ Attacked by moose -- missed -- killed lead dog of team behind Paulsen
- ✘ Cookie (new lead dog) takes wrong fork -- 60 miles off course in the dark
- ✘ 27 other teams followed
- ✘ Finished 42<sup>nd</sup> out of 70+ teams

# SECOND IDITAROD 1985

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- ✘ Caught in storm
- ✘ Snowhook catches crack
- ✘ Paulsen retrieves dogs from howling winds
- ✘ Spends night with snow hook in rock
- ✘ Snowhook shifts



# SECOND IDITAROD 1985 (CONT.)

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- ✘ Falls away into deep ravine
- ✘ Lost 80 miles before end
- ✘ Yellow bag adds to rescue
- ✘ Pilot lands in 90 mph winds
- ✘ Had to shift dogs around for flight
- ✘ Landed with feathers, growls, barks and blood

# MORE RISKS

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- ✘ While running dogs 80 miles
  - + Tends to injured dog
  - + Accidental 2 hour nap
- ✘ Attempted sail to Hawaii
  - + Surrounded by orcas
  - + Premise for “Voyage of the Frog”
- ✘ Retired from sledding
  - + Due to heart disease
  - + Sold dogs for \$1, except Cookie



# CURRENTLY

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- ✘ Living in New Mexico
- ✘ Today enjoying
  - + Horseback riding
  - + Sailing
  - + Writing

# AWARD WINNING TITLES

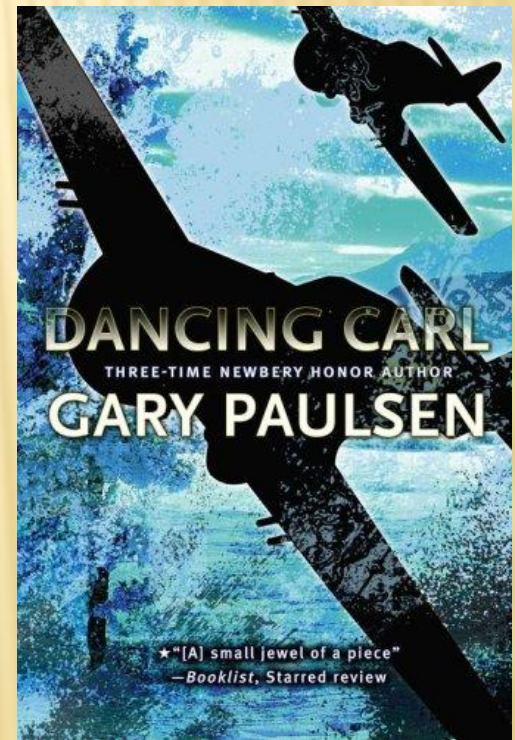
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- × *Hatchet*
- × *Dogsong*
- × *Dancing Carl*
- × *Tracker*
- × *The Crossing*
- × *The Island*
- × *The Boy Who Owned the School.*
- × *The Winter Room*
- × *The Cookcamp*
- × *The Monument*
- × *The River*
- × *The Haymeadow*
- × *Dogteam*
- × *Harris and Me: A Summer Remembered*
- × *Nightjohn*
- × *Sisters/Hermanas*

# MARGARET A. EDWARDS AWARD

Honors authors, for significant and lasting contribution to young adult literature

- ✘ **Dancing Carl** – A troubled, battle-scarred veteran who works at the local ice rinks enlightens Marsh and his close friend, Willy, about the devastating consequences and horrors of war and, at the same time, about the redeeming potential of love.



# MARGARET A. EDWARDS AWARD

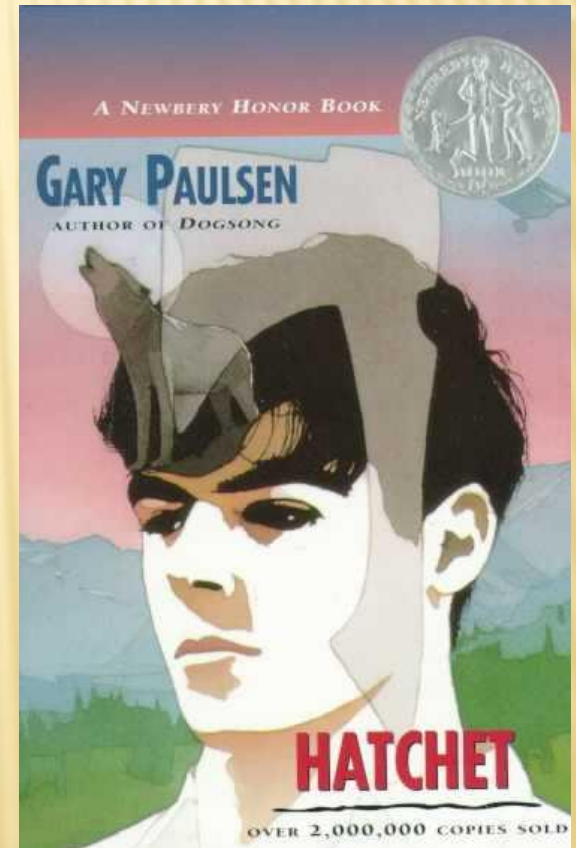
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- ✘ **Hatchet** -- a story of individual survival against great odds. A routine journey turns into a life-threatening and life-changing experience. Thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson is stranded alone at a lake deep in the Canadian wilderness for 54 days. A small plane, carrying Brian from his mother's home in Hampton, New York, to the oil fields in Canada where his father works, crashes after the pilot dies in flight from a heart attack.

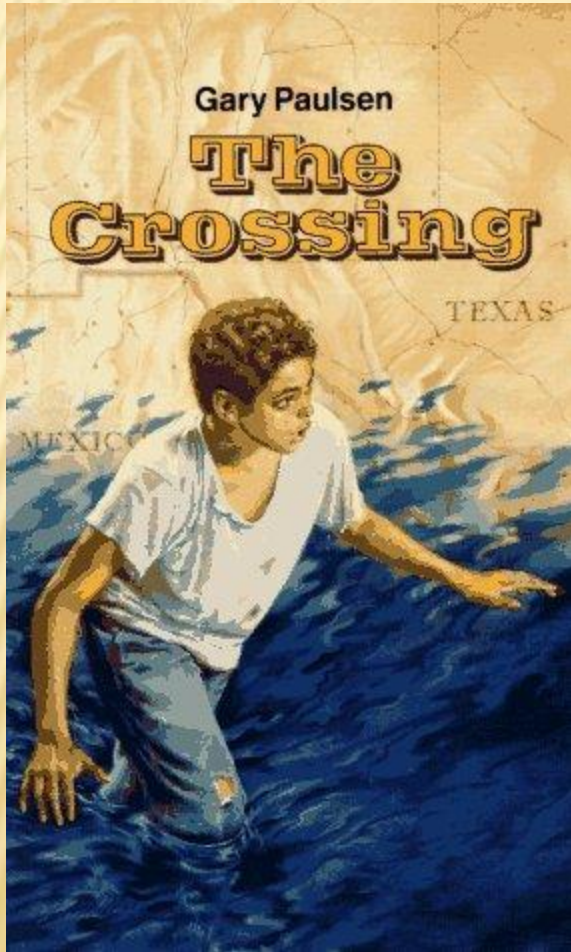
# MORE AWARDS

## *Hatchet*

- + Newbery Honor Book - 1988
- + ALA Notable Book - 1987
- + *Booklist* Editor's Choice citation - 1988
- + Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award - 1989
- + Georgia Children's Book Awards - 1991
- + Young Hoosier Book Awards - 1991
- + Iowa Children's Choice Award and Iowa Teen Award - 1990
- + William Allen White Children's Book Award - 1990
- + Maud Hart Lovelace Book Award - 1991
- + Flicker Tale Children's Book Award - 1990
- + Ohio Buckeye Children's Book Awards - 1991
- + Sequoyah Children and YA Book Awards - 1990
- + Virginia Young Readers Program - 1990
- + Golden Archer Little Archer Awards - 1989



# MARGARET A. EDWARDS AWARD



*The Crossing* story of how an American army sergeant and an orphaned Mexican boy form an unlikely bond.

- + Manny Bustos—smallish, underfed—survives on the streets of Juarez. His existence is meager, a constant struggle in a world where brute strength leads frequently to brutality. Bigger boys and men prey on Manny, filling his already dire days with fear. Despite the adversity, Manny dreams of a...

# AWARD WINNING TITLES

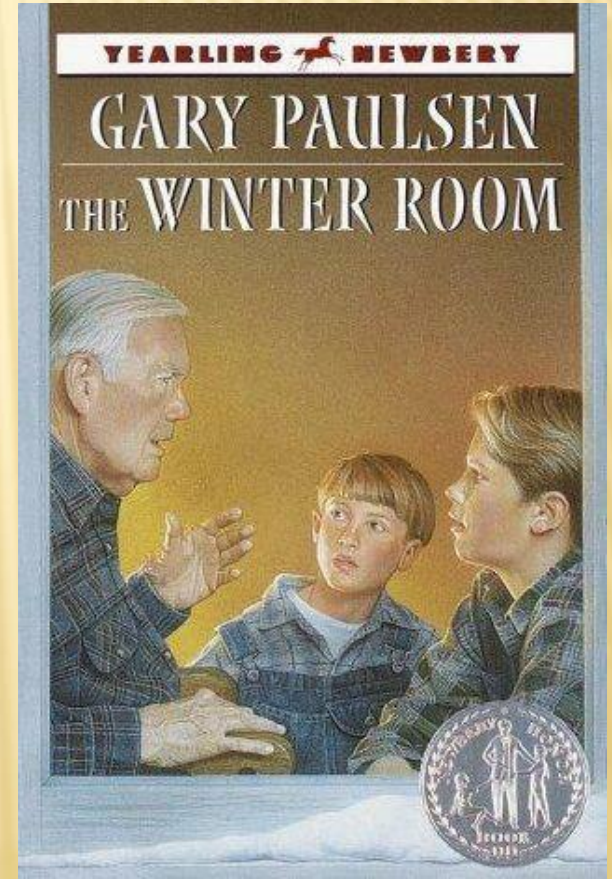
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## *The Winter Room*

- ✘ Newbery Honor Book - 1990
- ✘ Judy Lopez Memorial Award - 1990
- ✘ *Parenting* Magazine Best Book of the Year - 1990
- ✘ ALA Notable and Best Book – 1989
- ✘ Margaret A. Edwards Award

# THE WINTER ROOM

Two brothers grow up on a farm in northern Minnesota, we are witness to vivid scenes of farm life. In the bleak winters Uncle David tells stories in the winter room (a room only used in winter) of an almost mythological logging past. The boys doubt the truth of his stories and say so, thus hurting David so much he stops telling stories. It is only when the boys sneak into the barn to watch Uncle David and witness his incredible control of the axes that they begin to believe his stories are true and convince their uncle to resume the storytelling.

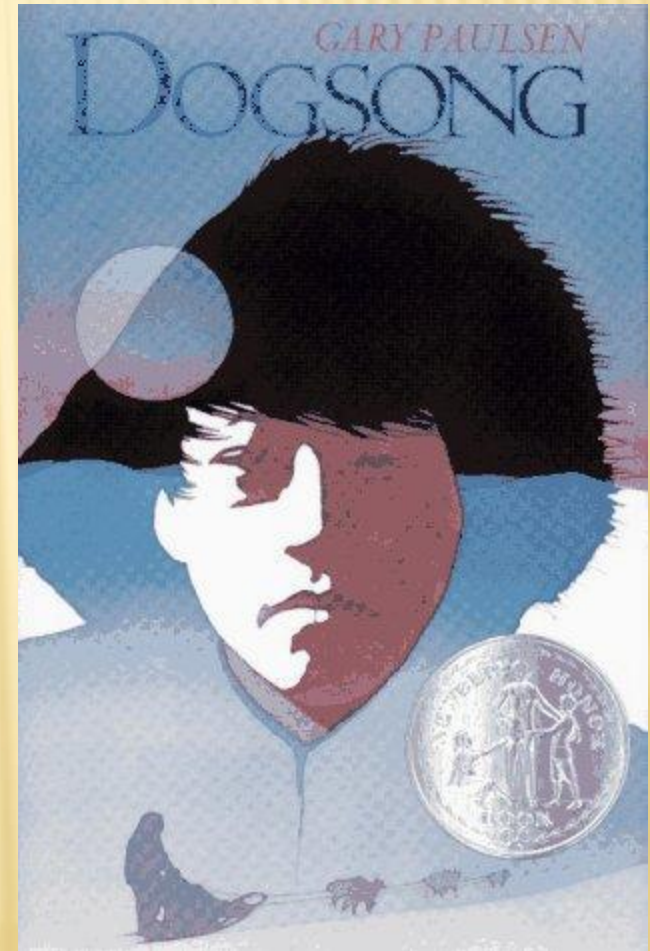




# AWARD WINNING TITLES

## *Dogsong*

- + Parents' Choice Award, Parents' Choice Foundation - 1985
- + Newbery Honor Book - 1986
- + Children's Book of the Year Award, Child Study Association of America - 1986
- + Volunteer State Book Award - 1989
- + ALA Notable and Best Book - 1985



# DOGSONG

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14-year-old Eskimo boy decides to go on a journey to the North to discover how to hunt in the old ways with his dogs so he could find out how the song goes in the past. Russell is seeking answers from the past, there is nobody that can help him on the way to the North he must do it alone. How would he survive? This journey might change his life forever.

# NOTABLE BOOKS

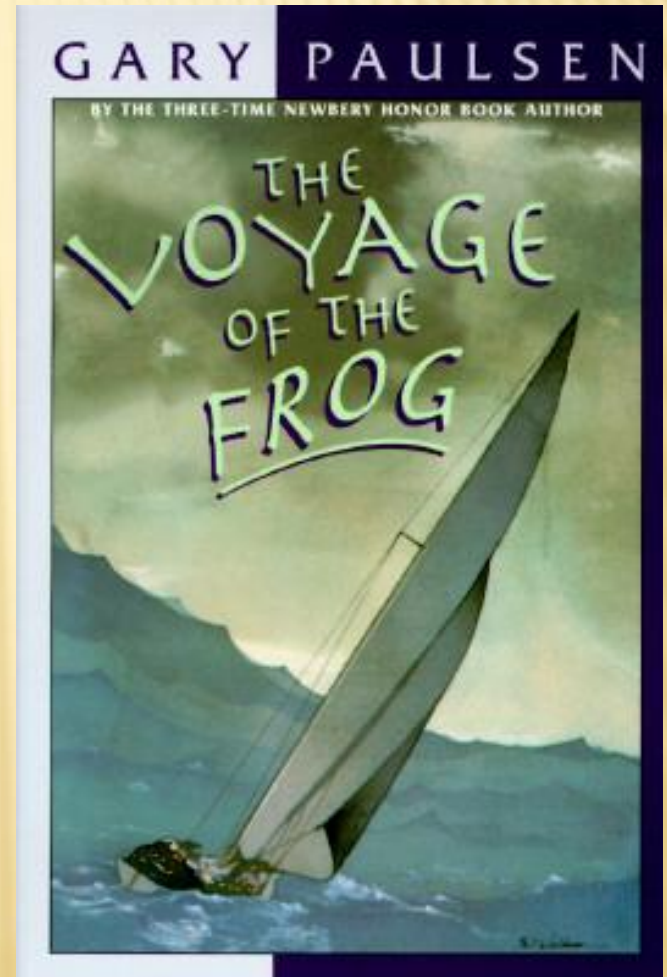
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## *The Voyage of the Frog*

- + *Parenting Magazine* Reading-Magic Award - 1990
- + Teachers' Choice Award from International Reading Association - 1990
- + Best Books of the Year citation from *Learning Magazine* - 1990
- + ALA Best Book - 1989
- + *School Library Journal* Best Book of the Year - 1989

# VOYAGE OF THE FROG

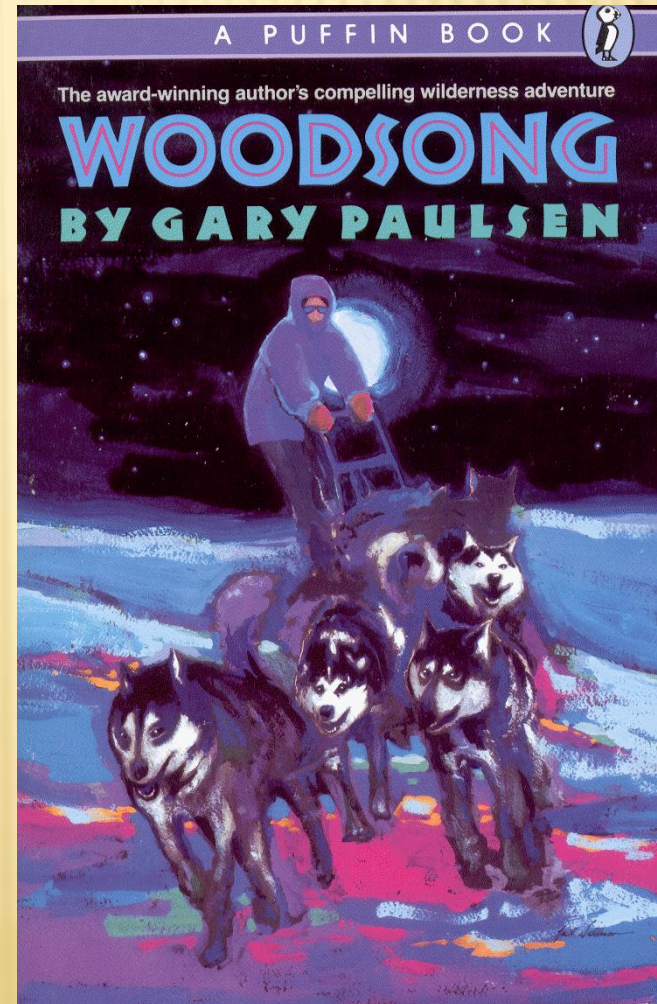
A boy faces troubles when he and his boat are swept out to sea. With only seven cans of food and a low water supply he would have to cover over twelve hundred miles to get back to the California coast.



# AWARD WINNING TITLES

## *Woodsong*

- ✘ *Booklist* Editor's Choice citation - 1991
- ✘ Society of Midland Authors Book Award - 1991
- ✘ Spur Award, Western Writers of America - 1991
- ✘ Minnesota Book Awards - 1991



# WOODSONG

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The Iditarod Trail Dog Sled Race is a race held each year between Anchorage and Nome, Alaska. The Iditarod is more than a race. It is 1049 miles of cold and wind and snow and ice. It is days and nights where sleep deprivation causes hallucinations that can be worse than the most terrible nightmare. But above all it is an endurance test of a person and a team of dogs. Woodsong is, in part, a day-by-day account of Paulsen's running the Iditarod. Although Paulsen finished 42<sup>nd</sup> in a field of 73 mushers on his first try, this is not a book about competing in a race. It is the story of a man learning about himself, his dogs, and the wilderness.

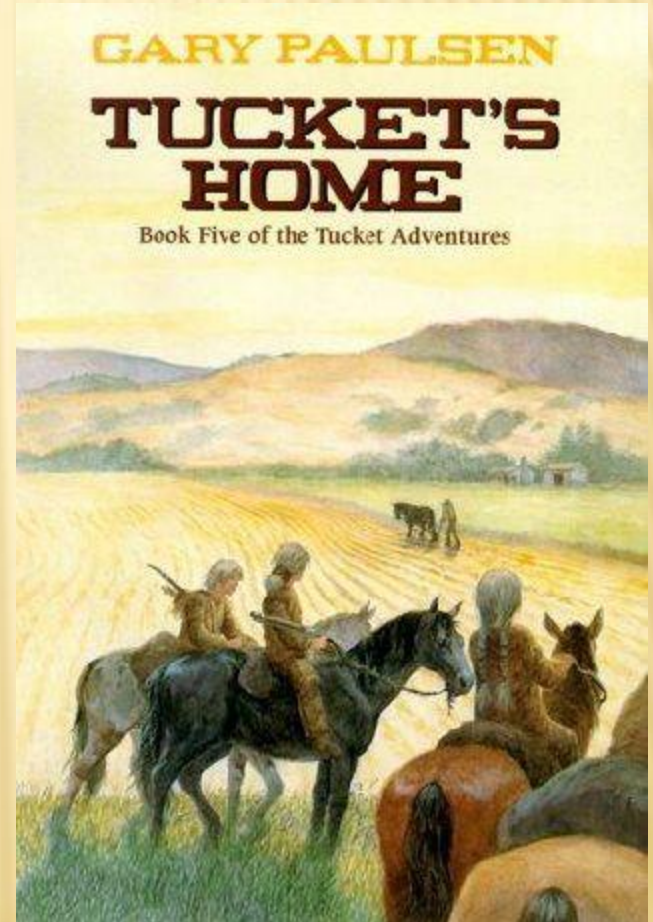
# NIGHTJOHN

A portrayal of American slavery in the 1850s through the eyes of the slaves. Sarny, a twelve-year-old girl, tells of the events that follow the arrival of Nightjohn, an enslaved adult male, at the plantation of Clay Waller. Nightjohn's impact is immediate, devastating in some ways, and hopeful in other ways. Himself a literate man who escaped from the South, Nightjohn has voluntarily returned to servitude in order to help slaves learn to read and write. Nightjohn has realized that illiteracy is the slave owner's tool of oppression...



# TUCKET'S HOME (BK #5 OF SERIES)

Fourteen-year-old Francis is heading west in a wagon train on the Oregon Trail when he's kidnapped by Pawnees. His adventures during the two-year search for his family teach him how to live by the harsh code of the wilderness. Along the way, Francis meets up with Mr. Grimes, a one-armed mountain man, and later rescues Lottie and Billy, children abandoned on the prairie. Together the three encounter bandits, soldiers, storms, eccentric travelers, and discover an ancient treasure. But the real treasure lies at the end of the trail—Tucket's home.





# PAULSEN TITLES @ MARSHALL

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- ✘ Molly McGinty Has a Really Good Day
- ✘ Canyons
- ✘ Sarny
- ✘ NightJohn
- ✘ Tucket's Home
- ✘ Hatchet
- ✘ Soldier's Heart
- ✘ Caught by the Sea
- ✘ The Car
- ✘ The Crossing
- ✘ The Voyage of the Frog
- ✘ Sisters Hermanas
- ✘ A Christmas Sonata
- ✘ The Foxman
- ✘ The River
- ✘ Alida's Song

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- ✘ Knee <http://www.thompsons-scotland.co.uk/images/sce/Images/Knee%20Injury%20Compensation%202.jpg>
- ✘ Dog sled [http://www.insidesocal.com/tomhoffarth/archives/Iditarod\\_Sled\\_Dog\\_Race.jpg](http://www.insidesocal.com/tomhoffarth/archives/Iditarod_Sled_Dog_Race.jpg)
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- ✘ Book titles

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## ✘ Voyage of the Frog

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## ✘ Woodsong

[http://home.centurytel.net/vanopst/lditarod/lit\\_\\_i1.gif](http://home.centurytel.net/vanopst/lditarod/lit__i1.gif)

## ✘ The Winter Room

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## ✘ The Crossing

<http://www.fantasticfiction.co.uk/images/n10/n53450.jpg>

## ✘ Tucket's Home

<http://www.fantasticfiction.co.uk/images/n8/n41706.jpg>

# LET'S TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE!!

