



## AUTHOR FUN FACTS

### *Born*

May 17

### *Jobs*

Farmhand, engineer,  
construction worker, rancher,  
truck driver, sailor

### *Adventures . . .*

. . . Dogsled racing—  
which includes two  
rounds of the 1,180-mile  
Alaskan dogsled race,  
the Iditarod!

. . . Sailing alone  
in the Pacific on  
his boat *Scallywag*

. . . Surviving storms  
on his sailboat

## AUTHOR STUDY ACTIVITY

Gary Paulsen's love for  
adventure in his own life  
comes through in his writing.

After reading some  
of Paulsen's books, ask  
students to find correlations  
between the adventures  
in his stories and the  
adventures he has had  
in his own life.

# YEARLING

## CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF CLASSICS

### Yearling Author Study

## GARY PAULSEN

Gary Paulsen was never a dedicated student, but developed a passion for reading at an early age after a librarian gave him a book to read—along with his own library card.

Running away from home at the age of 14 and traveling with a carnival, Paulsen acquired a taste for adventure. A youthful summer of rigorous chores on a farm; jobs as an engineer, construction worker, ranch hand, truck driver, and sailor; and two rounds of the 1,180-mile Alaskan dogsled race, the Iditarod, have provided ample material from which he creates his powerful stories.

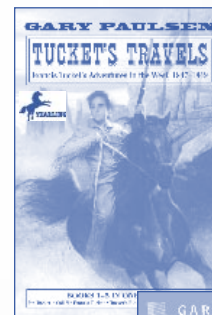
Paulsen's realization that he would become a writer came suddenly when he was working as a satellite technician for an aerospace firm in California. One night he walked off the job, never to return. He spent the next year in Hollywood as a magazine proofreader, working on his own writing every night. Then he left California and drove to northern Minnesota where he rented a cabin on a lake; by the end of the winter, he had completed his first novel.

Paulsen and his wife Ruth Wright Paulsen, an artist who has illustrated several of his books, divide their time between a home in New Mexico and a boat in the Pacific.

For more information on Gary Paulsen, visit [www.garypaulsen.com](http://www.garypaulsen.com)



Photo Credit: © C. E. Mitchell



## DELVE INTO THE BOOKS!

In *The River*, Brian Robeson must survive in the northern woods. His most important resource is his own ingenuity. Divide the class into small groups and have them list items they think are necessary to include in a survival pack.

*Alida's Song* 0-440-41474-1

*Call Me Francis Tucket* 0-440-41270-6

*A Christmas Sonata* 0-440-40958-6

*Danger on Midnight River*  
0-440-41028-2

*Escape from Fire Mountain*  
0-440-41025-8

*Harris and Me* 0-440-40994-2

*The Haymeadow* 0-440-40923-3

*How Angel Peterson Got His Name*  
0-440-22935-9

*Molly McGinty Has a Really  
Good Day* 0-440-41482-2

*The Monument* 0-440-40782-6

*Mr. Tucket* 0-440-41133-5

*My Life in Dog Years* 0-440-41471-7

*Puppies, Dogs, and Blue Northers*  
0-440-41875-5

*The Quilt* 0-440-22936-7

*The River* 0-440-40753-2

*The Schernoff Discoveries*  
0-440-41463-6

*Tucket's Gold* 0-440-41376-1

*Tucket's Home* 0-440-41558-6

*Tucket's Ride* 0-440-41147-5

*Tucket's Travels* 0-440-41967-0

*World of Adventure: Volume Two*  
0-440-42123-3