**Gary Paulsen**



Born May 17, 1939, Gary Paulsen developed a passion for reading at an early age. After a librarian gave him a book to read - along with his own library card - he was hooked.

He began spending hours alone in the basement of his apartment building, reading one book after another. 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 dog sled race, the Iditarod; have provided ample material from which he creates his powerful stories.

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