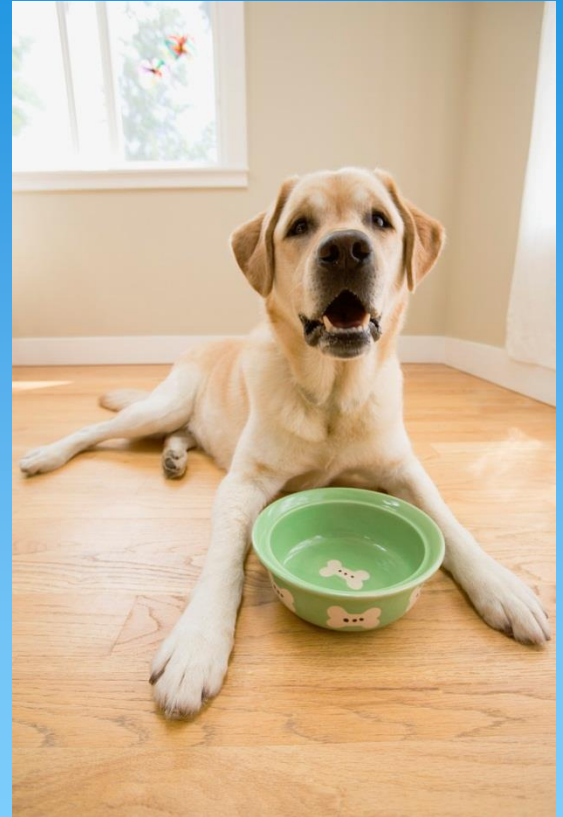


My Life in Dog Years

By Gary Paulsen



Author Focus: Gary Paulsen

- * What do you know about him/his novels?
- * In your notes, write down at least three (3) things you remember from your study in 6th and/or 7th grades. (Think about *Hatchet*.)

A Video Interview with Gary Paulsen

* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q7ADtOjxmRs>

Gary Paulsen

Add to your notes some information about the following from the interview--

- * Jobs he had
- * His feelings about animals
- * Activities he enjoys
- * How did he become a proficient writer?
- * What do you know about his dog, Cookie?
 - * From *Woodsong*
- * Did he always want to be famous?

Cookie

In your notes, after reading the dedication, respond to the following quote—

“They (dogs) are wonderful and, I think, mandatory for decent human life.”

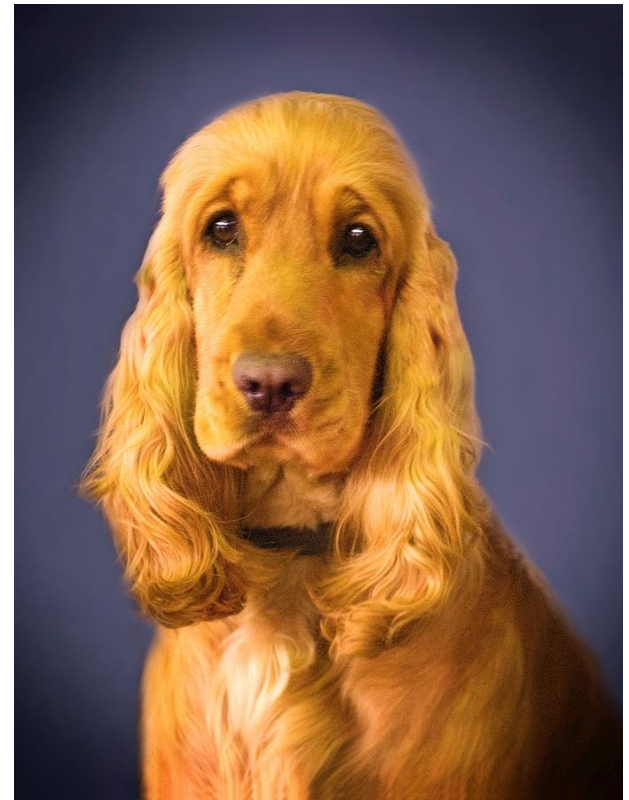
Paulsen, page 2

Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

Cookie

* Comprehension Questions:

- * 1. What are two things that make the ice near beaver lodges thin?
- * 2. What two things saved Paulsen?
- * 3. After Cookie rescued Paulsen by rallying the team to pull him out, what danger did he still face and what did he do to save himself?



Philippines

- The Philippines is a group of over 7,100 islands in the Pacific Ocean.
- In 1946, after many years under the U.S. and Japan's control, the Philippines became an independent nation.



Snowball

- ___ Philippine Islands (9)
- ___ haggle (11)
- ___ civilian (12)
- ___ ravaged (12)
- ___ cockfights (15)
- ___ paddies (15)
- ___ jauntily(18)
- ___ beckon (18)

- a. playfully; in a carefree manner
- b. Deadly fights between rooster, staged for human entertainment and gambling
- c. To call or invite
- d. A country of more than 7,000 islands; it was a possession of the U.S. before World War II
- e. To argue back and forth over a price
- f. Wet fields in which rice grows
- g. Destroyed
- h. A person who is not a member of a police force or any branch of the military

Snowball

1. Why did young Paulsen first take the puppy?
2. How did Snowball get her name?
3. Describe Paulsen's parents.
4. Describe the setting of this chapter?
5. Why was the setting important to the relationship between Paulsen and Snowball?
6. How did Snowball die?



Ike

Use 10 of the following words to complete the crossword puzzle. If you are unsure of the meaning, try reading the word in context on the page number listed.

Solitude (19)

Isolation (19)

Excruciatingly (19)

Salvation (20)

Visceral (22)

Palpable (22)

Dappled (22)

Decoys (23)

Blinds (23)

Entity (24)

Roundhouse (24)

Mallard (29)

Teal (29)

Scorn (33)

Compelled (33)

Absolve (33)

Dirk

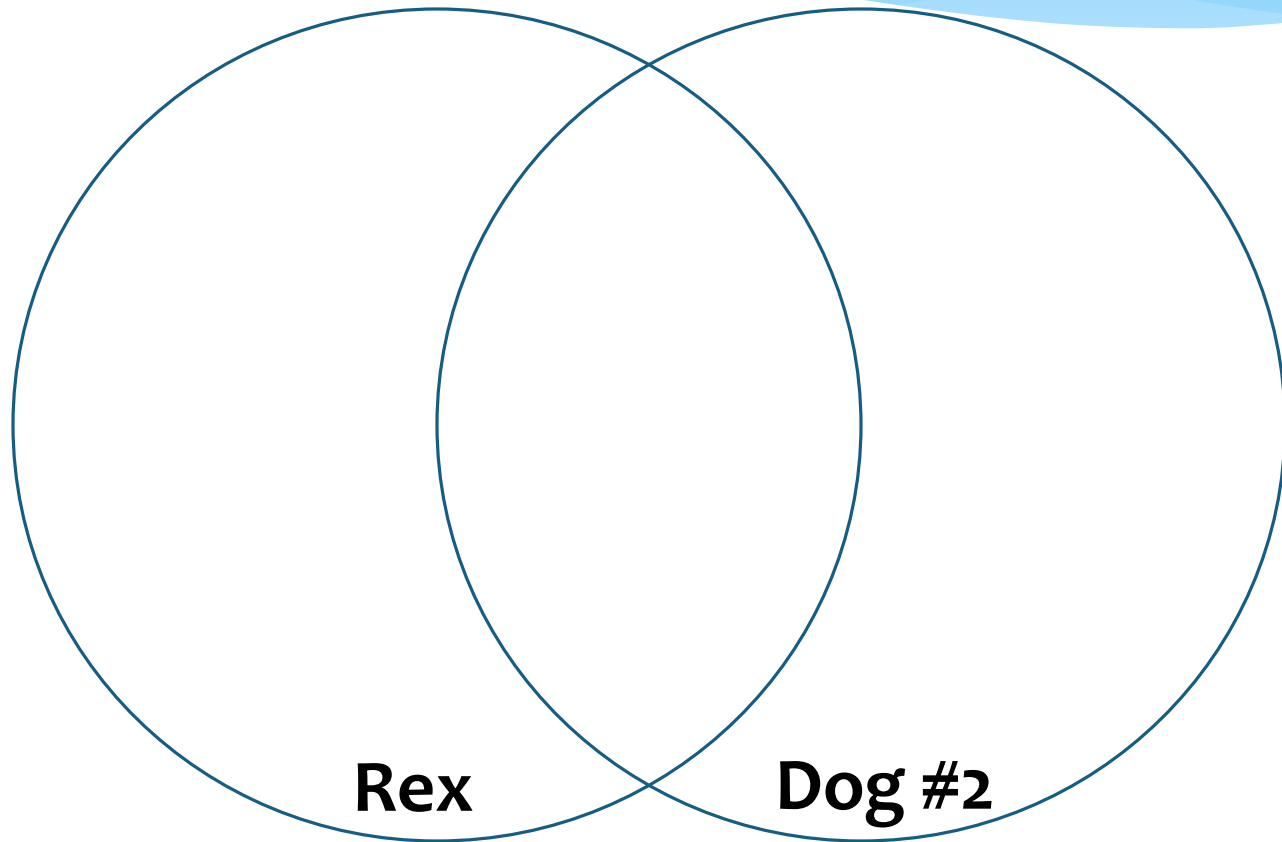
1. Although Paulsen had parents, he calls himself a “street kid.” Why?
2. What jobs did Paulsen have in this chapter?
3. Why was going home after work scary for Paulsen?
4. How did Paulsen find Dirk?
5. Paulsen said he didn’t go to the authorities because he was from “the wrong side of the tracks.” What did he mean by that?

Dirk

6. Why does Paulsen name the dog Dirk?
7. Why do Paulsen's attackers run away?
8. How does Dirk react when Paulsen tries to pet him the first time?
9. Why does Paulsen say Dirk "came to a wonderful end?"
10. What does Dirk do when Olaf pets him?

Rex

Select one of the dogs we have read about previously and compare that dog to Rex using a Venn Diagram.



Caesar



Character Traits

Adventurous

Athletic

Active

Brave

Bold

Caring

Cheerful

Curious

Considerate

Courageous

Considerate

Energetic

Friendly

Fun-Loving

Gentle

Generous

Happy

Humble

Hostile

Honest

Independent

Lazy

Mischievous

Nice

Proud

Protective

Quiet

Smart

Selfish

Timid

Wild

Loyal

Fierce

Nurturing

Caesar

Character Trait	Caesar's actions that support this trait	Gary's thoughts that support this trait

Quincy

1. Daunting – Scary; frightening
2. Wreaked havoc – caused great destruction
3. Precarious – Unstable; uncertain
4. Tableau – a picture
5. Rogues – destructive animals whose behavior is different from most of their species

Quincy

Put the following event in the order in which they happened.

- * _____ a. Paulsen and his friend the carpenter drove to Alaska in an old truck.
- * _____ b. Quincy journeyed 30 miles through Alaskan wilderness to the cabin of a woman and her two children.
- * _____ c. Bemidji held fundraisers to help Paulsen finance his dream of competing in the Iditarod.
- * _____ d. Paulsen decided he wanted to run the Iditarod.
- * _____ e. Paulsen discovered that his Siberian Husky could haul only thirty miles.

Josh

* Comprehension True or False:

- * _____ 1. Josh is a Border collie.
- * _____ 2. Josh had an owner before Paulsen who thought he was “naughty.”
- * _____ 3. Josh is afraid of horses.
- * _____ 4. Josh doesn’t like to get his paws dirty digging at things.
- * _____ 5. When there are guests at the house, Josh tries to herd them into one room.
- * _____ 6. Josh escorts all house guests to their cars.
- * _____ 7. At the international Border collie field trials, Paulsen saw hundreds of Border collies on short leashes following their owners.

Josh

- * _____ 8. Border collies love to listen and learn.
- * _____ 9. Josh will fetch an object as many times as Paulsen will throw it.
- * _____ 10. After feeling insulted that Paulsen would have him catch a rat, Josh left a dead gopher in his boot.
- * _____ 11. When Josh is too serious, Paulsen tickles his ribs.
- * _____ 12. When Paulsen was depressed, Josh tried to tickle his ribs.
- * _____ 13. Josh refused to be harnessed as a sled dog with the team.
- * _____ 14. Paulsen has a heart condition that keeps him from competing in sled dog racing.
- * _____ 15. On the Bighorn Mountain trail, Josh plays the role of point before the horses, thus making sure Paulsen won't be thrown from a spooked horse.