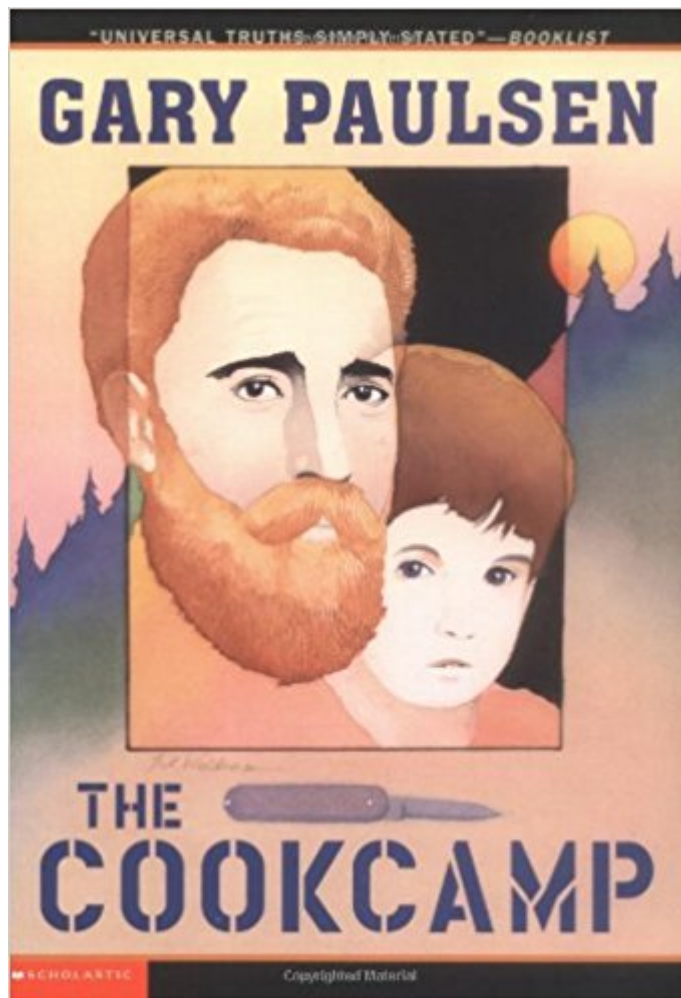


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# The Cookcamp



## Synopsis

Told through the eyes of a 5-year-old boy, this is a story of adventure and discovery in a cookcamp located in the Canadian woods during World War II. When?: World War II Where?: A cookcamp in the Canadian woods Why?: He's not really sure. One summer, a 5-year-old boy goes to live with his grandmother in a cookcamp. The camp is home to 9 men who are building a road through the woods. The boy misses his mother, but at the same time the camp becomes home--a special home where he learns to spit and rides the tractor. It's a wonderful summer, but then he lets slip to his grandmother about "Uncle Casey" and she writes seven letters to his mother. Seven letters that she mails "good and hard." A short while later, the boy returns home.

## Book Information

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Paperback: 128 pages

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Product Dimensions: 7.5 x 5.4 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 23 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #503,604 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #37 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Canada](#) #1055 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Boys & Men](#) #19296 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction](#)

## Customer Reviews

This short, lyrical novel concerns a five-year-old boy who is sent to the north woods of Minnesota to live with his grandmother, a cook for a rough-and-tumble road-building crew, because his father is off fighting in World War II and his mother has taken a job in a factory. Paulsen's simply told story strikes extraordinary emotional chords, from the boy's wide-eyed wonder at the giant men and their giant machines, to his searing rage at his mother's new boyfriend (the real reason he's been packed off to the woods), to his profound love for his grandmother, to his aching loneliness for his mother. Paulsen expertly balances sensitive probing of the boy's mental and emotional life with superb descriptions of the boy helping the men build the road, making Paulsen's unnamed hero one of the

most fully realized characters in recent memory. Those hungry for adventure stories, as well as more introspective readers, will be spellbound by this stirring novel, which is every bit the equal of *The Winter Room* and Paulsen's other works. Ages 10-12. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 5-8-- In its simplicity of story line but depth of imagery and emotion, Paulsen's latest work is very much like MacLachlan's *Sarah, Plain and Tall* (Harper, 1985). During World War II, the father is in the army and the mother has to work, so a five-year-old boy is sent to stay with his grandmother who works as a cook for a road-building crew in northern Minnesota. At first his day consists of long stretches of quiet as he tries to amuse himself, only to have the peace invaded by the crew of large, loud, good-natured men who inhale great amounts of food, ruffle the boy's hair, and then get back to work. The boy ultimately gets over his shyness when they take him out to work with them and let him ride in the big trucks. But still, he misses his mother, and soon he is sent back to her. Paulsen does an excellent job of portraying the lightning-quick changes of a young child's emotions, from the upheaval of being sent away to the wonder of coaxing a chipmunk to accept food from his finger, from the exhilaration of being in the large trucks to the quiet security of being sung a Norwegian lullaby. In the boy's eyes, the men are so much larger than life that they seem almost mythic, as if he had been suddenly transported to Paul Bunyan's camp. But he's not so dazzled by their size that he misses the small things: he is equally enthralled by the tiny detailed painting on his grandmother's thimble or the colors in her apple pie. While the boy is very young, his experiences are universal, making this a superb book for readers just old enough to look back and remember their childhoods and grandparents with a feeling of nostalgia. --Susan M. Harding, Mesquite Public Library, TX Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Yes the book and your great service met my expectations... Thanks, John Stout

Read this year's ago and still a favorite. Gary Paulson is always a good choice for reading material hands do

I recommend this book, it's a very great book. I think everyone should read this book. It's very adventurous that boys will enjoy reading.

Purchased for school district library. I have heard no complaints (and I would if there were any) so I would assume we are happy with the item.

Loved this book. It's a simple story of life through a boys eyes. The writer captures your imagination I felt like I was walking in the story and could picture each adventure and heartache.

The Cookcamp is a great book by Gary Paulsen. The main idea is a little boy goes to spend the summer with his grandma. My favorit part is when the little boy gets a pair of bibs, a hat, and a pocket knife. I really didn't like the way he was left at the train station. This book really inspired me to read more Gary Paulsen books like Dogsong, The Rifle, Hatchet, Brians Winter, and Voige of the Frog. I would recommend this book for boys that like the outdoors. I'm not going to tell you too much about this book because if you want to know the rest, buy it or check it out at your public library.

Gary Paulsen writes a thought-provoking book from a very young boy's point of view, and does it perfectly. Not many adult writers can write from a child's point of view and pull it off; Paulsen often does and The Cook Camp is his best. While this book is fine for young adult readers, adults will definitely benefit from reading it. Sometimes as adults we may forget what life is like from a very young child's point of view. Paulsen writes so well that it's a reminder for everyone how the very young view their world, the people in it, and are deeply affected by things they can't understand. The story is simple: a very young boy is sent to live with his Grandmother, who cooks for a camp of loggers in a remote area of the North. He is sent there by his mother, for reasons which become clear during the boy's visit. The first time I read the book I was afraid something terrible would happen to him during his stay at the camp. However, his Grandmother and the men working in the camp love the boy dearly and take excellent care of him. None the less, he misses his mother desperately and wishes he could go home. When his Grandmother fully comes to understand the reason he was sent to stay with her, she takes matters into her own hands and her love for her grandson sets things right. This book tugs at the reader's heart, particularly older teen and adult readers. It's a good story, about love, compassion, confusion, and how choices affect those around us.

Imagine: playing with a chipmunk, riding on a bulldozer, and having your own pocketknife when you are only five years old. The main character is a boy who is five years old and does all of these things. The boy and his grandma lived in the country, outside the small town of Pine, Minnesota,

cooking for a group of men, during World War II. While he was living with his grandma, he became lonely, missing his mother, who lived in Chicago. I liked this novel, but at times it seemed to go on forever. The novel was very interesting because the boy seemed to have a different adventure everyday. Somedays he rode on the machinery with the men, and other days he played outside with the few toys he had. The novel was very detailed and I could feel what the characters were feeling. When the boy was lonely, I was lonely. It was so detailed. I could see the pies and milk he drank! The one part I really disliked is that Gary Paulsen didn't give the main character a name.

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