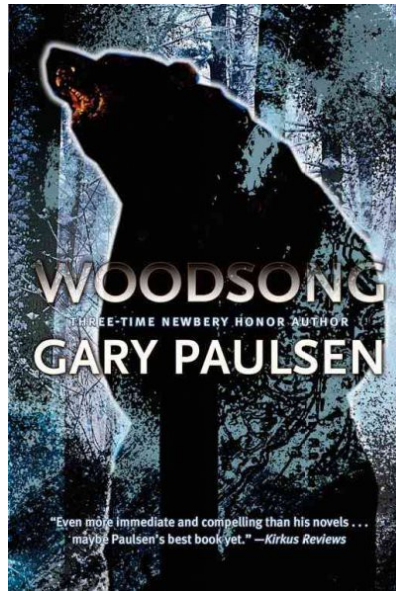


# Woodson



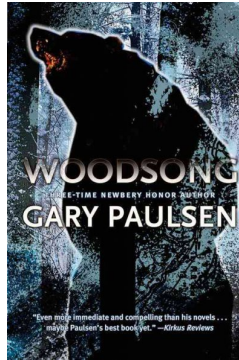
By

Gary Paulsen

A Novel Study  
by Nat Reed

# Woodsong

By Gary Paulsen



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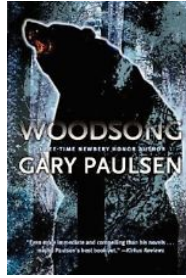
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**About the author:** Nat Reed has been a member of the teaching profession for more than 30 years. He is presently a full-time instructor at Trent University in the Teacher Education Program. For more information on his work and literature, please visit the websites [www.reedpublications.org](http://www.reedpublications.org) and [www.novelstudies.org](http://www.novelstudies.org).

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# Woodsong

By Gary Paulsen



## Suggestions and Expectations

This sixty-five page curriculum unit can be used in a variety of ways. Most chapters of the novel study focus on one or two chapters of **Woodsong** and are comprised of four different activities:

- Before You Read
- Vocabulary Building
- Comprehension Questions
- Language and Extension Activities

A principal expectation of the unit is that students will develop their skills in reading, writing, listening and oral communication, as well as in reasoning and critical thinking.

### Links with the Common Core Standards (U.S.)

Many of the activities included in this curriculum unit are supported by the Common Core Standards. For instance the *Reading Standards for Literature, Grade 5*, makes reference to

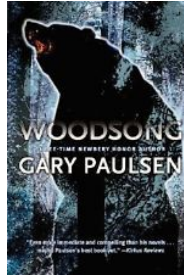
- a) determining the meaning of words and phrases. . . including figurative language;
- b) explaining how a series of chapters fits together to provide the overall structure;
- c) compare and contrast two characters;
- d) determine how characters . . . respond to challenges;
- e) drawing inferences from the text;
- f) determining a theme of a story . . . **and many others.**

Students can work on the activities at their own pace. Every activity need not be completed by all students. A **portfolio cover** is included as well as a **Student Checklist**.

**Themes** which may be taught in conjunction with the novel include overcoming difficulty, courage and endurance, the environment, and personal growth.

# Woodsong

By Gary Paulsen



## List of Skills

### Vocabulary Development

1. Locating descriptive words / phrases
2. Listing synonyms/homonyms
3. Identifying / creating *alliteration*
4. Use of capitals and punctuation
5. Identifying syllables
6. Identify *anagrams*
7. Identify *personification*
8. Use of singular / plural nouns
9. Listing compound words
10. Identifying parts of speech
11. Determining alphabetical order
12. Identification of root words
13. Identify/create *similes*
14. Identification of a *cliffhanger*

### Setting Activities

1. Summarize the details of a setting

### Plot Activities

1. Complete a *time line* of events
2. Identify conflict in the story
3. Identify the climax of the novel
4. Five W's Chart

### Character Activities

1. Determine character traits
2. Protagonists and antagonists
3. Relating personal experiences

### Creative and Critical Thinking

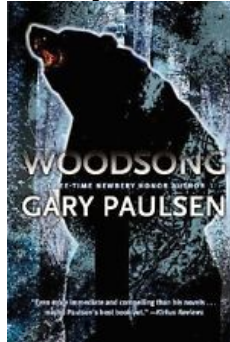
1. Research
2. Write a newspaper story
3. Write a letter to a friend
4. Complete an Observation Chart
5. Conduct an interview
6. Write a description of personal feelings
7. Write a book review
8. Complete a KWS Chart

### Art Activities

1. A Storyboard
2. Create a collage
3. Design a cover for the novel
4. Design an Information Card

# Woodsong

By Gary Paulsen



## Synopsis

Gary Paulsen, the three-time Newbery Honor author, is no stranger to adventure. He has flown off the back of a dogsled and down a frozen waterfall to near disaster, and waited for a giant bear to seal his fate with one slap of a claw. He has led a team of sled dogs toward the Alaskan Mountain Range in an Iditarod – the grueling, 1180 mile dogsled race – hallucinating from lack of sleep, but determined to finish.

Here in vivid detail, Paulsen recounts several of the remarkable experiences that shaped his life and inspired his award-winning writing. [The Publisher]

## Author Biography

*Gary Paulsen*

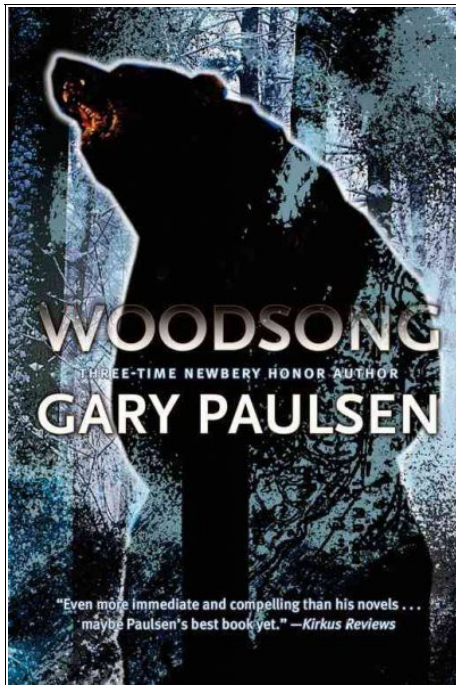
Gary Paulsen, a renowned author of novels for young people, presently lives in New Mexico. Three of Gary Paulsen's novels have been acclaimed as Newbery Honor Books: **Hatchet**, **Dogsong**, and **The Winter Room**. *The River* is Gary's exciting sequel to **Hatchet**. His other novels include: **Brian's Winter (sequel)**, **Brian's Return (sequel)**, **Canyons**, **The Crossing**, **Dancing Carl**, **The Island**, **Popcorn Days** and **Buttermilk Nights**, **Sentries**, **Tracker**, **Woodsong**, **The Legend of Red Horse Canyon**, **Escape From Fire Mountain**, **Danger on Midnight River**.



Gary Paulsen is an avid outdoors-man who competed in the Iditarod, a dog sled race across Alaska. He also frequently sails the Pacific Ocean.



# Woodsong

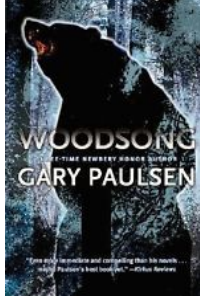


*By Gary Paulsen*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Woodsong

By Gary Paulsen



## Chapter 1



### Before you read the chapter:

The **protagonist** in most novels or works of nonfiction features the main character or “good guy”. The protagonist of **Woodsong** is actually Gary Paulsen, the author of this exciting book. Think back on some of your favorite characters from past novels you have read or movies you’ve seen. What do you think makes for an especially interesting **protagonist**?




### Vocabulary:

Choose a word from the list to complete each sentence.

paradox	tandem	precise	intent	predator
preconceived	carcass	clambering	frequent	virtually

1. Do you think it was Jon’s \_\_\_\_\_ to make everyone think he was left-handed?
2. The children were upset to see the \_\_\_\_\_ of a deer lying beside the trail.
3. Everyone thought it was quite a \_\_\_\_\_ that such a talented team had never won a championship.
4. Gary Paulsen spent \_\_\_\_\_ all of his time hunting.
5. The old trapper harnessed his dog team in \_\_\_\_\_.



6. My aunt and uncle were \_\_\_\_\_ visitors of the local museum.
7. The children were all \_\_\_\_\_ to see Santa Claus.
8. Do you think she had any \_\_\_\_\_ idea of who the burglar was?
9. It is critical for an architect to be extremely \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The grizzly bear is an especially ferocious \_\_\_\_\_.

## Questions



1. What is the setting of Chapter One?


2. Chapter One begins with an example of **foreshadowing** (a literary device in which the author provides clues as to upcoming events). Find an example of foreshadowing in the opening paragraphs.


3. The author believed in the fairy tale version of the forest until he was \_\_\_ years old.

### Good to Know - The Gangline

The **gangline** is a single line to which each dog is attached, usually in pairs, and it keeps the dogs in a tight formation ahead of the sled. This is better for forested areas or narrow trails, and is the typical harness system used in sled dog races such as the Iditarod or Yukon Quest. (<http://www.athropolis.com/arctic-facts/fact-dogs-hitch.htm>)

4. At first the deer and the wolves didn't even notice the author and his dog team. T or F
5. What event slowed the deer down enough that the wolves were able to catch up to it?


6. What did the man do to interrupt the wolves and what was the result?


7. Describe your impression of the first chapter?




## Language Activities

### A. Investigate: Brush Wolves

The author explains that the wolves he saw in this chapter were not the big timber wolves that the north country is so famous for, but **brush wolves**. Brush wolves are described in this chapter as being smaller than timber wolves, weighing about 40-50 pounds each. Your task is to do an investigation of this sometimes misunderstood creature. Using resources in your school library or on the Internet, research the brush wolf and record three fascinating facts from your research to share with your classmates.



1	
2	
3	

**B.** Choose ten words from this chapter with two or more **syllables**. Indicate the syllables by drawing a line between each syllable. **Example:** good / bye.



## Minnesota: The Setting for the Novel's First Half



## Extension Activity

### Storyboard

A storyboard is a series of pictures that tell about an important event in a story. A storyboard can tell the story of only one scene – or the entire novel.

Complete the storyboard below illustrating the events described in the first chapter of **Woodsong**. You may wish to practice your drawings on a separate piece of paper.

1	2
3	4
5	6