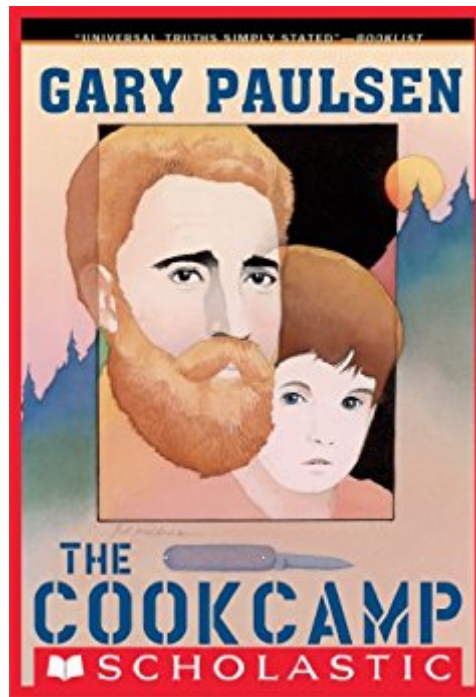


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# The Cookcamp



## 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

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## Customer Reviews

This story centers around a 5-year-old boy who catches his mother on the couch making strange noises with a man who is not his father. This event is the catalyst for a neglectful mother, who often leaves her son with a drunk babysitter, to send him away on a train to stay with his grandmother. Throughout the book there are at least 12 references to the sexual event that victimizes the boy, makes him hate "Uncle Casey," and separates him from his mother. The kindness of his

grandmother and the men at the cookcamp are overshadowed by recurring memories of a negative sexual event. Infidelity, neglect, haunting memories, separation... not an uplifting or appropriate book for elementary students.

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 favorite 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*, *Brian's Winter*, and *Voices 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.

The main characters in this book are the Boy, and his Grandmother, and mother. The boy and his mother don't get along so his mom sends him at five years of age to live with his grandmother. They live in a trailer where there's a construction site. His grandmother makes food for the men. He gets on a train to head up to Minneapolis where he gets on another train to go to Canada. When he gets there his grandmother waits. He works with grandmother to serve food. He rides in trucks with the men. For me this was one of the best books I've read. I hope you enjoy it.

I think this book is a good book because he has to go to his gramma's house and her gramma is very nice. She cooks him apple pie and she lets them go work with the guys. And he can drive the big truck and all the guys want him to go with them. And the boy has a really good time with the men.....

I like this book because it is a good book for youth kids it is an adventure book the boy has to go to his grandma's house because his mom got a boy friend and her boy friend did not want him to stay and his mom had to work and she did not have anybody to take care of him so he had to go live with his grandma.

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.

The Cookcamp by Gary Paulsen is a wonderful book I think everyone should read. The Cookcamp is about a boy who goes to stay with his grandmother during the war. The actual reason the boy went to stay with his grandmother is because after his father went to war, the boy saw his mother and his uncle Casey [Casey isn't really his uncle.] making out on the couch. After he saw them his mother sent him away. At the cookcamp the boy's grandmother cooks for all of these men who are building a road. While at the cookcamp, the boy helps the men. He sits in their laps, and once they teach him how to drive, he steers the vehicles for them. The boy is having fun, but then he starts to miss his mother. Will the boy stay with his grandmother, or go back to his mother? The Cookcamp by Gary Paulsen is a wonderful novel I think everyone should read.

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