

## Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher: Good/Addy/Hoehn    Grade: 6    School: OBMS

Book Title: Woodsong    Genre: Memoir

Author: Gary Paulsen    Pages: 132

Publisher: Aladdin Paperbacks    Copyright: 1990

*In a brief rationale, please provide the following information relative to the book you would like added to the school's book collection for classroom use. You may attach additional pages as needed.*

**Book Summary and summary citation:** (suggested resources include book flap summaries, review summaries from publisher, book vendors, etc.)

In a memoir as compelling as his novels, Newbery Honor author Gary Paulsen tells the story of his intimate relationship with Minnesota's north woods and the dog team he trained for the Iditarod dogsled race across Alaska.

With thrilling immediacy, Paulsen pulls us into the breathtaking drama of his own story. For a rugged outdoor man and his family, life in northern Minnesota is a wild experience involving wolves, deer, and the sled dogs that make their way of life possible.

This book includes a harrowing account of the author's first Iditarod. His life-changing adventure begins with sparkling days and moonlit nights spent running with his dogs in the Minnesota wilderness.

[www.scholastic.com/teachers/book/Woodsong#cart/cleanup](http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/book/Woodsong#cart/cleanup)

**Provide an instructional rationale for the use of this title, including specific reference to the OLSD curriculum map(s):** (Curriculum maps may be referenced by grade/course and indicator number or curriculum maps with indicators highlighted may be attached to this form)

- Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
  - CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.2 Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.
  - CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.3 Analyze in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and elaborated in a text (e.g., through examples or anecdotes).
- Craft and Structure
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings.
  - CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.5 Analyze how a particular sentence, paragraph, chapter, or section fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the ideas.
  - CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.6 Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and explain how it is conveyed in the text.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.7 Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.6.9 Compare and contrast one author’s presentation of events with that of another (e.g., a memoir written by and a biography on the same person).

**Include two professional reviews of this title:** (a suggested list of resources for identifying professional reviews is shown below. Reviews may be “cut and pasted” (with citation) into the form or printed reviews may be attached to the form)

Review #1

KIRKUS REVIEW

A three-time Newbery Honor winner tells--in a memoir that is even more immediate and compelling than his novels--about his intimate relationship with Minnesota's north woods and the dog team he trained for Alaska's Iditarod. Beginning with a violent natural incident (a doe killed by wolves) that spurred his own conversion from hunter and trapper to observing habitant of the forest, Paulsen draws a vivid picture of his wilderness life--where bears routinely help themselves to his dog's food and where his fiercely protective bantam adopts a nestful of quail chicks and then terrorizes the household for an entire summer. The incidents he recounts are marvelous. Built of concrete detail, often with a subtext of irony or mystery, they unite in a modest but telling self-portrait of a man who has learned by opening himself to nature--not to idyllic, sentimental nature, but to the harsh, bloody, life-giving real thing. Like nature, the dogs are uncontrollable: independent, wildly individual, yet loyal and dedicated to their task. It takes extraordinary flexibility, courage, and generosity to accept their difficult strengths and make them a team: Paulsen sees humor in their mischief and has learned (almost at the cost of his life) that rigid discipline is irrelevant, even dangerous. This wonderful book concludes with a mesmerizing, day-by-day account of Paulsen's first Iditarod--a thrilling, dangerous journey he was so reluctant to end that he almost turned back within sight of his goal. It's almost as hard to come to the end of his journal. This may be Paulsen's best book yet: it should delight and enthrall almost any reader.

Pub Date:Aug. 1st, 1990

ISBN:0-02-770221-9

Page count:160pp

Publisher:Bradbury

Review Posted Online:May 20th, 2010

Kirkus Reviews Issue:July 15th, 1990

Review #2

Children's Literature - Jan Lieberman

Every March I live vicariously as I watch parts of the Iditarod on TV but I never really appreciated the demands of this 1,180 mile dog-sled race across the barrens of Alaska until I read this book. Paulsen has personally met this race's challenge and describes graphically the effects of the bone-chilling cold, the physical exhaustion on both runner and dogs, and the spirit of competitiveness of 'man vs. nature' that dominates the event. 1991 (orig.

Children's Literature - Beverly Kobrin

Mr. Paulsen's paeon to his beloved sled dogs is one of the most moving books I've ever read. His eloquence borders on ardor as he vivifies individual dogs and the team that pulled him for 17 days in Alaska's 1,180 mile Iditarod. 1991 (orig.

School Library Journal

Gr 6 Up Natural phenomena, chilling experiences, and exhilarating adventure are all part of Paulsen's personal recollections of his induction into sled-dog training and racing. Fluent, spare memoirs of one man's initiation, education, and unabashed awe of the wilderness and its inhabitants. Oct. 1990

**What alternate text(s) could also fulfill the instructional requirements?**

Title: Dogsong Author: Gary Paulsen

Title: Black Star, Bright Dawn Author: Scott O'Dell

Title: Author:

Title: Author:

Title: Author:

Title: Author:

**Document any potentially controversial content:**

There are some "gory" descriptions of predator/prey situations. Gary Paulsen shares hallucinations he has due to sleep deprivation.

**Keeping in mind the age, academic level, and maturity of the intended reader, what is the suggested classroom use: (check all that apply)**

Gifted/Accelerated  Regular  At Risk

**GRADE LEVEL(S):** 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

**Reading level of this title (if applicable):**

Reading Level

Grade level Equivalent: 7.2

Lexile Measure®: 1090

DRA: 50

**Date Submitted to Department Chair:** 03/03/2014

**Suggested Professional Literary Review Sources:**

School Library Journal

Horn Book

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates)

Library Journal

Book Links

Publisher's Weekly

Booklist

Kirkus Review

Wilson Library Catalog

English Journal (and other resources of the National Council of Teachers of English)

The Reading Teacher (International Reading Association)

Literature for Today's Young Adults