Name_____

Author of Adventure

A brief review of Gary Paulsen's life shows why he is such a prolific writer. When he was young, a librarian handed him a book and showed him how to obtain a library card. From that point on, Gary became an avid reader. He spent hours reading alone, which may have fueled his taste for adventure. Paulsen ran away from home at age 14 and traveled with a carnival. Add to that a summer of farm chores and two runs in an Alaskan dogsled race. Throw into the mix various jobs including engineer, construction worker, truck driver, and sailor. With his diverse history, Paulsen has a wealth of experiences from which to draw on to write his stories.

Taking a big risk, Paulsen left a job as a satellite technician to pursue the field of writing. He worked as a magazine proofreader while working on his own writing at night. Later, he moved from California to Minnesota, renting a cabin by a lake. There, he wrote his first novel. During this time living in the woods, Paulsen tried his hand at dog racing. When forced to give up his dogs due to his health, Paulsen began to put the same energy he had devoted to dog training into his writing. According to Paulsen, he stays focused when he works, not doing anything else, which explains the number of books he has published.

Paulsen observes closely and cares about the world around him. He encourages his readers to do the same. These characteristics, along with his belief in young people, make him a popular author. Three of his books—*Hatchet*, *Dogsong*, and *The Winter Room*—have won Newbery Awards. With over 175 books published, Paulsen leaves readers with a lasting legacy.

Text Questions

1. What likely inspired Paulsen to write stories about survival in the wilderness?
   a. He worked as an engineer.
   b. He lived in the north Minnesota woods.
   c. He liked to read.
   d. He won awards for his writing.
2. Which is a synonym for the word *legacy* as it is used in the last paragraph?
   a. gift
   b. money
   c. property
   d. bequest
3. Which characteristics make Gary Paulsen a popular young-adult author?
   a. He carefully observes the world in which he lives.
   b. He has had a wide variety of experiences.
   c. He believes in young people.
   d. all of the above
4. Which of the following is <u>not</u> true about Paulsen's early life?
   a. He was an avid reader.
   b. He did chores on a farm.
   c. He sailed on the ocean with his father.
   d. He ran away from home to work with a circus.
5. Based on what you read in the passage, what might inspire you to read a book written by Gary Paulsen?

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LIVEWORKSHEETS