Eric Bush

*Exemplary Introduction*

Mrs. Powers

Language Arts

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The Storyteller

“I put bloody skins on my back, and I dance around the fire, and I tell what the hunt was like,” Gary Paulsen tells *teachingbooks.net* in an interview. “There's no substitute for personal inspection right at the source of what you are researching.” In other words, first-hand experience is the main source for quality writing, and it is the main source for Gary Paulsen’s writing. Gary Paulsen, a children and young adult author, has written a variety of novels, including *Hatchet*, *Woodsong*, and *Soldier’s Heart.* Between living his childhood as a runaway and spending much of his adulthood jumping from job to job, Gary Paulsen has gained many first-hand experiences. Gary Paulsen uses his personal experiences to add realism and quality to his novels by interlacing fiction with first-hand experiences from his careers, his childhood, and his knowledge of the outdoors.