

Chapter 1 : My Life in Dog Years Questions and Answers - racedaydvl.com

*His "Life in Dog Years" recaptures his relationships with the dogs in his life. I can relate to his love of dogs (and all animals) their different personalities and how they each came into Gary's life and what role they played.*

I have always had dogs and will have dogs until I die. I have rescued dozens of dogs from pounds, always have five or six of them around me, and cannot imagine living without dogs. They are wonderful and, I think, mandatory for decent human life. Other facts come out in his stories of his dogs-that he likes to wander, likes challenges, and can be cantankerous-but that he loves dogs is the key to his outlook and his never-ending kindness to them. Yet Paulsen likes other animals too. To explain why he took a huge, clumsy, rambunctious Great Dane into his house, he says that he is driven by the thought: This drive has brought me dozens of dogs and cats, a few ducks, some geese, a half dozen guinea pigs, an ocelot, several horses, two cows, a litter of pigs followed by more and more litters-my God, they are prolific, one hawk, a blue heron, a large lizard, some dozen or so turtles, a porcupine and God knows how many wounded birds; chipmunks, squirrels and one truly evil llama am I the only person in the world who did not know they can spit dead level for about fifteen yards, hitting your eye every time? He cares about wildlife, although he has hunted ducks. When animals invade his garden, he and his wife try to drive them away without hurting them, even though the law says they may kill the animals that damage their property. This forbearance toward invaders includes bears, although, Paulsen says, he once had to shoot one. The bottom drops out and you go down. This sets the theme for the book as a whole, the dependence of a man on dogs. The first dog to matter to Paulsen is Snowball. Life in the Philippines is hard on him: Snowball and he are inseparable, and he learns how to discern odors and how to look for food. Someone has trained Ike to be a fine hunting dog, one who knows good hunting when he sees it. He had another job. Paulsen first encounters Dirk as a sound: This must have occurred after Paulsen got his library card, because he says that he named the dog after a character in a mystery he was reading. When Dirk again puts the thugs to rout, the scene is one of jubilation: Maybe one of the great moments in my life. I had a bodyguard. Taken to a farm, Dirk thrives and, according to Paulsen, lives well with the farmer. The dog even wags his tail when the farmer pets him. There is some organization to the stories, although it is not chronological. The story of Dirk and the farm leads comfortably to the story of Rex. Paulsen is thirteen or fourteen years old and working on a farm when he decides to follow the dog Rex through his workday. He discovers that the dog is conscientious: The dog seems to take pride in his work and to regard his life as important, and he never stops working. At night he is outside keeping watch. Before the faithfulness theme becomes cloying, Paulsen introduces Caesar, an enormous Great Dane. At first the story seems to be sad, because the dog will not eat and just stares at the door. But when Caesar perks up, he is an explosion. Paulsen opens the refrigerator door for him, and food disappears in sudden gulps. The dog cannot help but knock over furniture. Paulsen confesses that he eggs Caesar on when his wife is not home. A little boy cons Paulsen into buying a small puppy that does his own bit of salesmanship: Fred turns out to be a very determined dog. When Fred is zapped by the fence, it is war. Like Fred, Quincy is notable for his determination. In spite of this and other adventures, Quincy lives to be very old for a dog-eighteen to twenty years, according to a veterinarian. Another very old dog rounds out My Life in Dog Years. Josh is eighteen to twenty years old as of the writing of his story.

### Chapter 2 : My Life in Dog Years by Gary Paulsen | Scholastic

*The book My Life in Dog Years by Gary Paulsen is a autobiography about him and the dogs he had in his time. In the book he talks about the many companions.*

When Paulsen ran dogs in sled races, Cookie was his first lead dog. Paulsen describes Cookie as being a team leader who saved his life. The book called My Life in Dog Years is somewhat an autobiography of Paulsen but he is not the true star of the book -- his dogs are. Paulsen describes Cookie as being a team leader who saved his life when he made the mistake of coming too close to the ice near a beaver lodge. When he was seven he acquired Snowball in a village in the Philippines. Paulsen recalls that he and Snowball were inseparable; with her, Paulsen is able to learn how to tell different smells apart and how to find food. When Snowball dies, he describes this as being a great loss for him as a boy because he had very little contact with people and socialization mainly took place with her. Ike was the next dog to take some of his loneliness away, however Ike is not his dog. Ike was a trained hunting dog, which Paulsen liked because he enjoyed hunting as well. Dirk is the next to appear and depending on your take he can be considered funny or scary. His interaction with the dog is scary because Dirk saves him from the four muggers trying to rob him. Paulsen describes Dirk as seldom to show affection but fiercely loyal. He takes Kirk to live on a farm where the dog thrives. When Paulsen is in his young teens and working on a farm, he meets Rex. Rex is a very conscientious dog that checks the entire perimeter, even making note that a skunk had tried to get in to the chicken coup. Rex seems to take pride in his work, even keeping watch at night. Caesar is next to be introduced, he is a Great Dane that is left to Paulsen by a man who no longer can care for him. Caesar is sad that his owner has left him but is very enthusiastic when it comes to food. Fred is the next dog in the book, he is introduced along with a pig called Pig. Fred is bought by Paulsen from a little boy. Pig, though intended to be food, becomes a pet, and Fred and Pig bond with one another. Quincy, the next dog, is also very determined. He is a dog that has been abandoned, and after ending up in Alaska he is taken in by a woman. Paulsen quickly sees the determination in Quincy and trades one of his sled dogs for him. Quincy lives for years, a very long time for a dog. Josh is the last dog in the book and he is when his story begins. He is a border collie that is described as being thoughtful, intelligent, and devoted. Paulsen says that Josh is more a person than a dog. Paulsen even call Josh an extension of his mind.

**Chapter 3 : My Life in Dog Years Novel Summary, Literary Analysis, Review | Novel Summaries Analysis**

*My Life in Dog Years isn't a blow-by-blow of Paulsen's life, or the life of every dog he's ever known. It's a collection of portraits of special dogs that the author spent time with over the years. It's a collection of portraits of special dogs that the author spent time with over the years.*

Feb 11, Josiah rated it liked it For all his superb cultural, wilderness, and humor fiction, this is Gary Paulsen in his element: Paulsen did a stint in the military, ran a team of sled dogs in the Iditarod, lived in a houseboat, lived in Alaska, lived in New Mexico, and those are only a few of the happenings that informed his award-winning youth literature. When Gary Paulsen writes about his experiences, readers are in for a kaleidoscopic show of passion, danger, love, wisdom, and foolishness, everything one hopes for from a dramatically atypical life. His stories about animals tend to be his best, lessons he learned from wild creatures and his own pets, and we find a bit of both in My Life in Dog Years. The master of the genre puts us in his shoes during several eras of his exciting life, giving us the chance to know and love his dogs as though they were ours. He relates an incident from January when he was out with his dogs in extreme subzero temperatures and he fell through thin ice into deep water. Cookie saw him go down and rallied the dogs to pull Paulsen back to the surface by the rope he grabbed as he fell through. He fended off hypothermia and miraculously survived, but if not for Cookie, none of his three Newbery Honor books *Dogsong*, *Hatchet*, and *The Winter Room* would have been written. Moving to the Philippines in the s was a culture shock for seven-year-old Gary Paulsen. His father was stationed there with the army, but his parents allowed him to adopt a dog. He chose a black puppy with a white circle on one side, and named her Snowball. Even back then, Paulsen spent hardly any time at home. They met destitute people in the streets and smuggled them food from home, listening to their stories of how World War II had affected them. The Paulsens took great pains to arrange for Snowball to go with them when they returned to America, so attached was the boy to his pet. When you care for someone to that degree, it never fades away. By the time Paulsen was a few years older, his parents had slipped into habitual drunkenness. He spent more time away from home, hunting with his. Hunting was a solitary occupation until the night he met a big black Labrador also wandering alone. Paulsen and Ike became nightly hunting buddies, though Paulsen was the less adept partner. The Labrador could retrieve a downed duck anywhere it dropped, which came in handy. Paulsen felt compelled to make excuses to Ike whenever he missed a shot, a comical situation that endears their friendship even more to the reader. He found out thirty years later what became of Ike, a wonderful epilogue that will give most people chills for the second or third time in this book. The Ike chapter is one of my favorites. With an increasingly dark home life as he grew into a teen, Paulsen took to the streets almost full-time. To earn money for his basic needs, Paulsen set pins at a bowling alley, a bloody job described in detail in other books by the author. The worst part of street life was the groups of older teens who robbed loner kids. Then one day he found a ragtag, snarling street dog under the stairs whom he fed part of his hamburger, more to avoid being attacked than out of kindness. Following the tired teen hoping for more food, Dirk waylaid a group of thugs who hassled Paulsen, driving them away from their target. Dirk went home with Paulsen and curled up beside the basement furnace next to him, though he bristled at any physical affection. We might not get as close to the Dirks in our lives as we do with others, but we appreciate them. They were all smart and loyal, but the one recalled in this book was named Rex. That dog took his job seriously, gently herding cows, chickens, and other animals where they were supposed to go without ever being taught. Rex never rested without thinking about what he should do next. Many humans could take their cues from his work ethic, a dog whose predominant desire was to serve. In the next story, Paulsen is a grown man living in the Colorado mountains with his wife Ruth Wright Paulsen, who illustrates the chapter headings for this book. Paulsen allowed himself to be suckered into adopting a Great Dane named Caesar whose master was leaving the U. After his owner left and the dog mourned with scary intensity for almost a week, eating nothing and drinking only enough to stay alive, the adventure began when Caesar decided he was ready to rejoin the living. Caesar always went crazy

for hot dogs, losing all self-control. The day turns out well, a warm memory of a galumph of a dog who spent an afternoon winning the affection of local children. Paulsen fed them as many scraps as they could want, but eventually Pig got wise that Paulsen was holding out on him, and knocked over the fence to chow down on the garden. The results are recorded in these pages as tribute to a funny little dog who loved his vittles. The little ball of fur and teeth would hop onto the floor of the car when they drove, to smell animals outside. Then he could decide if they were worth barking about. Quincy evolved to become Mrs. Paulsen could get to her feet. That tiny cyclone of righteous indignation may have saved her, and deserved a place of honor in this collection. Could an animal be so resourceful, so smart, so giving of himself without being a person? Paulsen believes Josh is as much a person as any human. Like Quincy, Josh learned at a torrid pace, even complexities of life in the wild that it took Paulsen a while to pick up on. Paulsen would never forget riding horses in the Bighorn Mountains with his loyal Border collie running beside him. Giving up dogsledding because of his own heart condition was hard on Paulsen, but horses salved that wound, and riding them with Josh was a pleasure. Josh was old when this book was written, but the mental picture of him leading the way for the horses would remain with Paulsen forever, and is captured lovingly as the parting scene for this book. Life is a wondrous journey, made by the people we love and the company we keep. The people who change our life often do so in very different ways. We may adore them instantly, or despise each other at first but grow close over time. We express our feelings openly to some friends, and are reserved with others. It lives on because they helped shape who we are. My Life in Dog Years is an uncanny reminder of the wonder and complexity of what we add to one another. His parents were always drinking and never really took care of him. He lived in a house up in the mountains most of the time but when he was younger he went to the philippines for 2 years and he also went to Alaska alot. So this book tells how each dog he had took care of him and he took care of them. Some of his best friends were Cookie, Dirk, and Snowball. Cookie was a sled dog that he had when he did the iditarod. Cookie was a sweet dog Gary Paulsen never really had anyone looking after him. Cookie was a sweet dog and loved Gary. One day they went to this pond with all of the sled dogs. The ice on this pond was maybe two inches thick and very dangerous. Gary had heard of a lot of stories of people falling through and dying. So all the dogs laid down on the bank and fell asleep. Gary took one step out onto the ice and fell through! The water was 12 feet deep and ice cold! When Gary fell through he saw Cookies eyes light up. Cookie grabbed a rope threw it into the water and got all of the dogs up, Cookie got them to start pulling and pulled Gary out of the water! Gary got a fire started and got warmed up. Each chapter of this book is a story of each amazing dog he had! There are so many more stories like this one. Gary was walking home from his job at the bowling alley and he got a burger, so he put it in his backpack when he was climbing down from the latter that comes down from the roof he heard a growling. It was a dog who wanted that burger. So Gary gave the dog half the burger and started walking home. There were always these boys that would beat Gary up and take his money. So Gary ran into them and they started to kick and punch him. Gary heard a growl and then the boys started running away. Gary got up and saw the dog. The dog had protected Gary from the boys. The dog was staring at his backpack waiting for the burger. Gary gave it to him and started to walk home. The dog followed him all the way home and down into the basement. Gary decided to name him Dirk. Dirk waited outside school for him everyday and waited outside the bowling alley every day to then Gary would give him the burger and Dirk would scare the boys off. They were a perfect pair. One day Gary got a job on a farm and took Dirk with him. Dirk helped him every day. Gary decided that Dirk wanted to stay at the farm with the old man that lived there. One day he went back to visit and Dirk was out in the field herding the sheep. Gary will always remember Dirk as a great dog. There are so many more stories that are really sweat. If you like animals than read this book. I loved it because Gary is an amazing writer and all of the stories just made me so happy and wanting to read more!

#### Chapter 4 : What are the dogs' names and when did Gary Paulsen own them? | eNotes

*My Life in Dog Years is a non-fiction book for children written by the American author Gary Paulsen, together with his wife, Ruth Wright Paulsen. It was published first by Delacorte Press in It was published first by Delacorte Press in*

### Chapter 5 : My Life in Dog Years (Audiobook) by Gary Paulsen | racedaydvl.com

*My life in Dog Years is a great memoir about the dogs Gary Paulsen has raised through his lifetime. Each chapter has a different story about one of the many dogs he has owned. In one of the chapters, Gary, at the age of seven, lived in Vietnam during the war, and there obviously weren't very many kids living there at that time.*

### Chapter 6 : My Life in Dog Years - Gary Paulsen - Google Books

*Gary Paulsen has owned dozens of unforgettable and amazing dogs. In each chapter he tells the story of one special dog, among them Snowball, the puppy he owned as a boy in the Philippines; Ike, his mysterious hunting companion; Dirk, the grim protector; and Josh, one of the remarkable border collies working on Paulsen's ranch today.*

### Chapter 7 : My Life in Dog Years Summary and Analysis (like SparkNotes) | Free Book Notes

*A poignant World War II story about a boy and his dog and his dad, and the many meanings of bravery, from Newbery Honor author Kirby Larson. With World War II raging and his father fighting overseas in Europe, year-old Hobie Hanson is determined to do his part to help his family and his country, even if it means giving up his beloved German shepherd, Duke.*

### Chapter 8 : My Life in Dog Years by Gary Paulsen | racedaydvl.com

*My Life in Dog Years is an autobiography because it is about Paulsen's relationship with dogs, but the dogs are the stars of the book. Paulsen declares: I am-I say this with some pride and not a little wonder-a "dog person."*

### Chapter 9 : PPT - My Life in Dog Years PowerPoint Presentation - ID

*My Life in Dog Years is a book for every dog lover and every Paulsen fan--a perfect combination that shows vividly the joy and wisdom that come from growing up with man's best friend. From the Hardcover edition.*