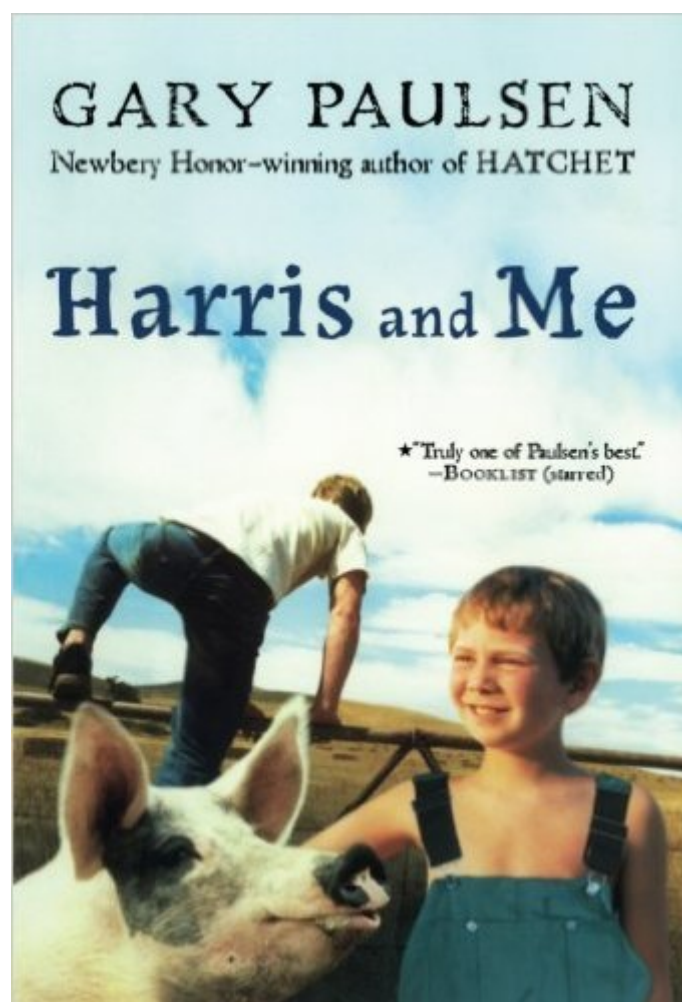


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# Harris And Me



## Synopsis

A young boy spends his tenth summer on his aunt and uncle's farm, where he is constantly involved in crazy escapades with his cousin Harris. On the Larson farm, readers will experience hearts as large as farmers' appetites, humor as broad as the country landscape and adventures as wild as boyhood imaginations. All this adds up to a hearty helping of old-fashioned, rip-roaring entertainment.--Publishers Weekly

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1060 (What's this?)

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (March 1, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 015205880X

ISBN-13: 978-0152058807

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.5 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (297 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #20,719 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #34 in Books > Children's Books >

Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > Farm Life #101 in Books > Children's Books >

Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Boys & Men #1063

in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gary Paulsen never shuns writing about real life to spare your kiddies' artificial innocence. His books deal with the pains and joys of childhood - parental quarrels, alcoholism, abusive behavior, etc. - more forthrightly than any other children's writer I encountered with my own son as he was learning to read, and my son loved Paulsen's book enough to choose them for himself. "Harris and Me" is a first-person narrative, told by a boy whose dysfunctional family has sent him to live with kinfolk on a backcountry farm in Minnesota. Harris is the bigger boy whose family has the farm. He becomes the narrator's surrogate brother and role model for devil-may-care enjoyment of boyish wildness. The narrator sense that his own nature is different from Harris's but he treasures Harris's spirit. It's a quick read for an adult, a kind of hyper-condensed adventures of Tom Sawyer and Huck

Finn. It's funny fun for the right kid to read silently or out loud, but children raised in a household devoted to propriety may find it incomprehensible, since propriety is not a virtue on Gary Paulsen's farm. One might suspect that this narrative, like many of Paulsen's, is semi-autobiographical. I'm very certain, however, that Paulsen has somehow gotten ahold of my unwritten memoirs, and used MY childhood for his model. I've seldom read anything that depicts the experiences of farm life, in Minnesota or in Sweden, fifty years ago or today, as accurately as this short book. I mention Sweden because I lived as a boy on a dairy farm near Nykoping that was identical to Harris's. Like Paulsen, I've traveled very far, physically and culturally, from that farm, but in my heart of hearts I'm still Harris, and/or his admiring sidekick, myself.

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