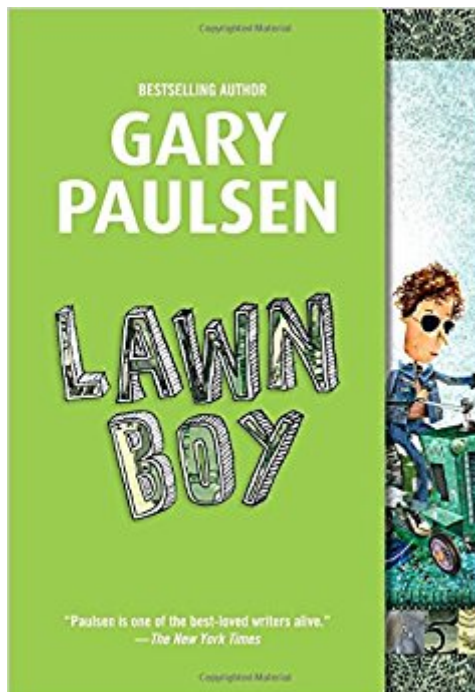


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# Lawn Boy



## Synopsis

One day I was 12 years old and broke. Then Grandma gave me Grandpa's old riding lawnmower. I set out to mow some lawns. More people wanted me to mow their lawns. And more and more. . . . One client was Arnold the stockbroker, who offered to teach me about "the beauty of capitalism. Supply and Demand. Diversify labor. Distribute the wealth." "Wealth?" I said. "It's groovy, man," said Arnold. If I'd known what was coming, I might have climbed on my mower and putted all the way home to hide in my room. But the lawn business grew and grew. So did my profits, which Arnold invested in many things. And one of them was Joey Pow the prizefighter. That's when my 12th summer got really interesting. From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0780 (What's this?)

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: Yearling; 1 edition (March 24, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0553494651

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Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.2 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 162 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #27,166 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Jobs & Careers](#) #137 in [Books > Reference > English as a Second Language](#) #166 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > New Experiences](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Grade 4  
At the beginning of summer vacation, the 12-year-old narrator wonders how he is going to get enough money to buy a new inner tube for his bike. Grandma comes to the rescue when she gives him her late husband's riding lawn mower and he starts mowing a few yards in the neighborhood. Within a month, he has 15 people working for him and more business than he can handle. Arnold, one of his customers and a home-based stock broker, invests some of the boy's earnings not only in the stock market but also in a prizefighter, helping him earn thousands of

dollars. Gary Paulsen's enjoyable novel (Wendy Lamb Books, 2007) also offers lessons on how a free-market economy works, buffered by lots of wacky humor and the inclusion of improbable and unexpected events. Tom Parks does an excellent job of conveying the innocence and unbridled enthusiasm of the young man. However, the protagonist sounds younger than 12 and a Latino character sounds somewhat robotic. In spite of these quibbles, this is a fun and educational audiobook. --Wendy Woodfill, Hennepin County Library, Minnetonka, MN Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

**\*Starred Review\*** This short and hilarious tale pitches an ordinary preteen with an old riding lawn mower into a dizzying ascent up the financial ladder. His sights set no higher than a new inner tube for his bike, the young narrator is thrilled to make \$60 in one day, mowing his neighbors' lawns. Just as demand for his services skyrockets, he meets Arnold, an honest, home-based stockbroker who becomes his business manager . . . and less than a month later, the lad has a dozen migrant laborers in his employ. The legality of these workers is left vague, but their young employer treats them fairly, and the thousands of dollars he earns goes into some wildly successful investments--including sponsorship of a rising prizefighter whose help comes in handy when the burgeoning enterprise attracts a shakedown artist. Thanks to quick lessons in, to quote some of the chapter heads, "Capital Growth Coupled with the Principles of Product Expansion" and "Force of Arms and Its Application to Business," the young tycoon ends up smarter than when he started out, and worth half a million dollars. When it comes to telling funny stories about boys, no one surpasses Paulsen, and here he is in top form. John Peters Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Lawn Boy was one of a number of Summer reading books chosen for reading by our 10 year old prior to 6th grade; a grade or two above or below would be this book's target audience based on content and reading level. Lawn Boy deals with the story of an unnamed 12 year-old's birthday gift of a used lawn mower and how a series of interactions while mowing lawns allows the boy to parlay his mowing money into a small fortune. The economic concepts are sound and relatable - if not a bit unbelievable in how they all pan out - but overall, Gary Paulsen writes a fun, quick reading book that both my boy, and I, enjoyed. A minor nitpick, this book does have the main character dealing with some issues in some questionable ways (having a business foe beaten up, hiring undocumented labor, paying off-the-books, etc.) but its themes, lessons and viewpoints speak well to a tween or

early teenager. The content does not contain anything any reasonably unsheltered kid would be put off by.

Short and lower level reading. Personally not worth the investment. I know Mr Paulsen's audience is younger and I'm much too old to be reading his books still, but this really was a stark reminder of that. In either event, middle school me would likely say this was too short and easy of a read. Who knows, just my 25 year old and progressively cynical view.

I am an 8th grade business technology teacher. The book is intended for 5-6th grade. However, this is a true gem of a book that can be made relevant to a diverse audience from all backgrounds and almost all ages. I loved reading the book as an adult. It is an interesting, inspiring, and easy read. It can be applied to so many real life scenarios, the opportunities are more than plentiful! I am glad I picked up this book and will have a smile on my face every time I look at it on my shelf. Don't hesitate to get this book - it's worth it!

Gary Paulsen, as an author was recommended to us by my son's fifth grade teacher. After reading "Mudshark" on his own, I was intrigued to find other books by this author. I came across "Lawn Boy" which appealed to both my son and I after his interest in starting his own business. This was a great read. We laughed, we talked about business on a level far above 5th grade, and even got some math practice in! Would recommend this book, and this author to anyone having trouble getting your child 'into' reading.

My son just hates reading. It's the bane of his existence. When book reports are assigned it's all out war. He does the whole page count thing to try and get away with the least amount of reading possible. This book fit the bill. His teacher gave it his approval, it wasn't too long and best of all, my son actually enjoyed it. Now he wants to get the sequel. For anyone who is fighting the same battle, I recommend this book for their son as well. The author, Gary Paulsen, has a wide range of other books that suit tween boys and we will be looking for more in the future.

I considered this book because I was interested in starting a lemonade stand and or some sort of stand and so this was on my battle of the books list it was sooo worth the five dollars it teaches you value perfect for five through ten

While driving out to my son's school with him and his mother we were treated to an impromptu verbal book report. The book was "Lawn Boy" and he launched into an impassioned description of the book. My first thought was that we would not have had this discussion if we had let him bring his PSP with him in the car. My second thought was, "That is an awesome book! I am going to have to read it as well." So, that night after the kids were in bed, I plopped down on the couch with the 88 page elementary school book and dove in. 45 minutes later I not only confirmed my earlier opinion that this was a good educational book for pre-teens but also found that I had enjoyed the story myself. I liked it so much I wrote up a review for it on my site HeadhunterDad.com as well. [...]

Many valuable life lessons and investment lessons. It could happen likely not but one never knows...which makes it a fun fiction.

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