



## Worksong

By Gary Paulsen, Ruth Wright Paulsen

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People at work, doing things that are so essential to us all, are lyrically depicted in Gary Paulsen's spare and elegant verse and Ruth Wright Paulsen's richly textured oil paintings. This talented pair celebrates the work ethic with sensitivity and dignity--and reminds us of the quiet grace inherent in everyday lives. "The soft colors, spare text, and overall design of the book provide a song of praise to the unsung heroes in every child's world and to the simple satisfaction of a job well done."--*School Library Journal*

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## **Worksong By Gary Paulsen, Ruth Wright Paulsen Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #920349 in Books
- Brand: HMH Books for Young Readers
- Published on: 2000-05-01
- Released on: 2000-05-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .12" w x 11.00" l, .36 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 32 pages

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

PW called this a "gentle rhyming hymn to the dignity of work." Ages 3-7.

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From School Library Journal

Kindergarten-Grade 3. As they did in *Tortilla Factory* (Harcourt, 1995), the Paulsens have once again collaborated to celebrate the labors of common people. Gary Paulsen's brief rhyming text evokes the rhythm and sounds of a musical score as he pays homage to the "keening noises and jolting sights" of a carpenter at work on a new house or truckers on "one more nighttime run." Although the author mentions "offices filled with glowing screens," the occupations celebrated within these covers are not to be found in financial houses on Wall Street or among the corporate giants. Instead, he has looked to the streets outside the skyscrapers, into the small shops, classrooms, and factories that fill our cities and into the fields, highways, and markets that extend across the countryside. Here are the mothers and fathers of the majority of America's children. Ruth Wright Paulsen's impressionistic oil paintings extend the brief text into many worlds—an ice-cream shop, a hairdressing salon, a library, and even under the sea. Individuals from many cultures carry on their daily work with great dignity, returning home to their families at the end of the day to rest and prepare to carry on the same refrain in the morning. Although the gender depictions are fairly traditional, the soft colors, spare text, and overall design of the book provide a song of praise to the unsung heroes in every child's world and to the simple satisfaction of a job well done. —Barbara Kiefer, Teachers College, Columbia University, NY

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From [Booklist](#)

Ages 4^-8. The Paulsens collaborate here on a picture book that celebrates the world of work. "It is keening noise and jolting sights, and hammers flashing in the light, and houses up and trees in sun, and trucks on one more nighttime run" reads the rhythmic, rhyming text. A diverse selection of workers, including blue-collar laborers, professionals at computers, soldiers, and clerks, is shown at work, then coming home at the end of the day to tuck in children and prepare for "the next day's song." Children will be fascinated by the rich oil paintings showing such interesting activities as pouring red-hot steel and deep-sea diving. Occasional stumbles in the rhythm and the ultra-traditional division of labor (women shown as nurses, librarians, and hairdressers) are the downsides of this very handsome, otherwise engaging book. —Susan Dove

*Lempke* <sup>P</sup> *The Easy Reading column appears quarterly. Grade ranges encompass both reading and interest levels, and, when appropriate, the reviews themselves address any unusual aspects--sentence structure, vocabulary, complex concepts, nontraditional punctuation--necessary to help selectors make purchase decisions.* ??

### Users Review

From reader reviews:

**Jessica Peacock:**

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**Marissa Wegener:**

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**Carla Floyd:**

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**Teresa White:**

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