



Lawn Boy

By Gary Paulsen

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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.

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Lawn Boy By Gary Paulsen Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 4–7—Learning the workings of the free-market economy has never been more fun than in this tall tale of entrepreneurship set in Eden Prairie, MN. When the narrator's grandmother gives him an old rider mower for his 12th birthday, his life changes; he senses "some kind of force behind it." Almost as soon as he figures out how to run it, the boy is in business—by the second day he has eight jobs. When he mows the lawn of Arnold Howell, an aging hippie e-trader, the cash-poor man offers a stock-market account in lieu of payment. Arnold not only invests the money; he also offers business advice. Soon lawn boy has a partner, 15 employees, a lot of money invested in the market, and a prizefighter. Chapter headings suggest business principles behind what is happening. Throughout the tale, the narrator is innocent of his success as he rises early each morning to begin each job, eats lunch on the mower, and longs for a less- hectic summer vacation. This rags-to-riches success story has colorful characters, a villain, and enough tongue-in-cheek humor to make it an enjoyable selection for the whole family.—*Kathryn Kosiorek, Cuyahoga County Public Library, Brooklyn, OH*

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From [Booklist](#)

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*

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Review

Starred review, [Booklist](#), April 15, 2007:

"[A] short and hilarious tale . . . When it comes to telling funny stories about boys, no one surpasses Paulsen, and here he is in top form."

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Leticia Cantrell:

Reading a guide tends to be new life style in this era globalization. With looking at you can get a lot of

information which will give you benefit in your life. Using book everyone in this world could share their idea. Guides can also inspire a lot of people. Many author can inspire their reader with their story or perhaps their experience. Not only the story that share in the textbooks. But also they write about the ability about something that you need case in point. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your kids, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors on this planet always try to improve their skill in writing, they also doing some investigation before they write on their book. One of them is this Lawn Boy.

Alexander Snider:

This Lawn Boy is brand new way for you who has attention to look for some information as it relief your hunger of knowledge. Getting deeper you into it getting knowledge more you know or you who still having small amount of digest in reading this Lawn Boy can be the light food for yourself because the information inside this book is easy to get simply by anyone. These books create itself in the form that is reachable by anyone, yep I mean in the e-book type. People who think that in publication form make them feel sleepy even dizzy this e-book is the answer. So there isn't any in reading a publication especially this one. You can find what you are looking for. It should be here for an individual. So , don't miss it! Just read this e-book style for your better life in addition to knowledge.

Leif Gibbs:

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