

Woods Runner

Gary Paulson

Reviewed by Ethan Dossey, age 13

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be The Star You Are! Charity

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Woods Runner is an excellent book. It mixes a great fictional story with real historical facts. When you are reading the book you feel like you are there in the time of the Revolutionary War. This book is wonderful to read so I would recommend you check it out right away.

Woods Runner is a book about a thirteen-year-old boy named Samuel who lived during the Revolutionary War. He is very happy in the beginning, hunting in the woods. Then the war comes to his far-off village when he is in the forest, and soldiers capture his parents. After he finds out he tracks his parent's captors, and this starts his fantastic journey.

Woods Runner was different from all the other books I've read because in-between chapters there were little paragraphs with information about the war. There were a variety of facts about the war, such as how they cleaned wounds, planned attacks, or the different ways people died. The author wanted to show that war is not about glorious victories and heroes. He wanted to show the other side of war, which is death, and heartbreak.

The book was so well written that it put a good picture in your head. Gary made the woods sound so peaceful and the trails so noisy and dangerous that you really got the picture about what he was describing. Samuel was also easy to picture and his emotions were very forthcoming. It was just a great job.

I recommend this book for kids 12 and up. There is a lot of sadness and death that I think younger kids shouldn't experience. But other than that I think it was a fascinating book.