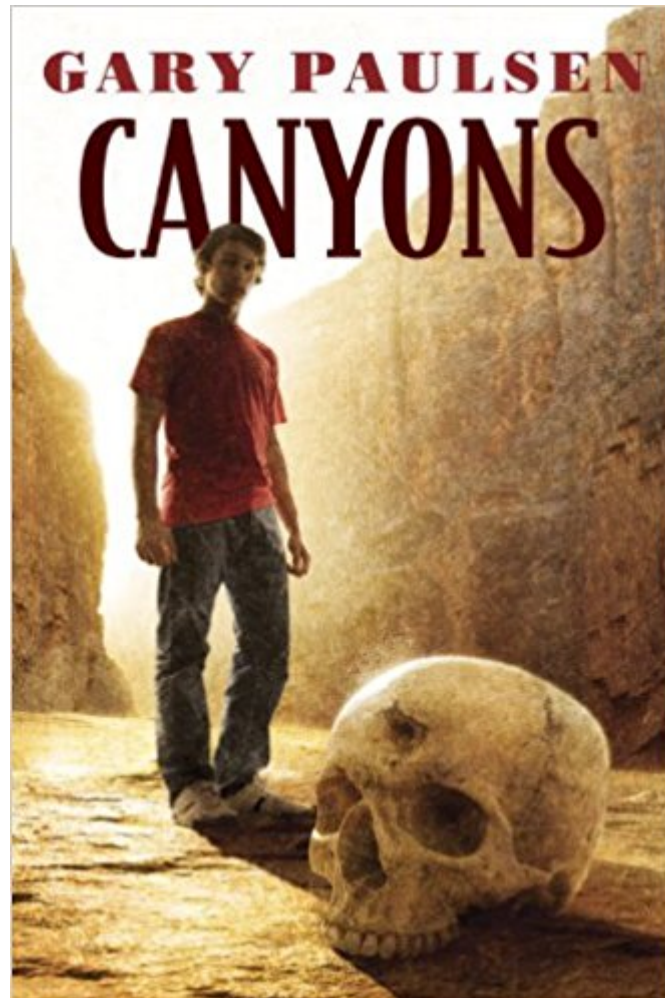




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Canyons



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Synopsis

Two boys, separated by the canyons of time and two vastly different cultures, face the challenges by which they will become men. Coyote Runs, an Apache boy, takes part in his first raid. But he is to be a man for only a short time. More than a hundred years later, while camping near Dog Canyon, 15-year-old Brennan Cole becomes obsessed with a skull that he finds, pierced by a bullet. He learns that it is the skull of an Apache boy executed by soldiers in 1864. A mystical link joins Brennan and Coyote Runs, and Brennan knows that neither boy will find peace until Coyote Runs' skull is carried back to an ancient sacred place. In a grueling journey through the canyon to return the skull, Brennan confronts the challenge of his life. From the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A psychic link is forged between a 19th-century Apache boy and Brennan, a 15-year-old on a camping trip who undertakes a grueling journey. "Terse language keeps the story moving at a brisk pace," PW commented. Ages 12-up. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Cornered in a canyon during his first coming-of-age horse raid, a young Apache brave, Coyote Runs, is shot execution-style by soldiers from Fort Bliss. One hundred years later, Brennan Cole discovers a skull with a hole through its forehead in a canyon where he's been camping and becomes obsessed by the need to find out the who, what, and why of the skull. With the help of a pathologist, his high-school biology teacher, and someone from the Western Historical Archives in

Denver, Brennan pieces the story together. The bond between the two boys, a century apart in time but so close in age and spirit, grows stronger as Brennan now searches for the final answer: why is Coyote Runs' spirit so restless, and what does it want of him? Brennan's realization that only when Coyote Runs' haunting and haunted soul is at peace will his own disturbed self find peace climaxes in his own coming-of-age challenge. Paulsen involves readers so deeply in the lives of both characters, telling the story in alternating chapters marked by the cadence and language distinctive to each boy and his time and place, that the whole becomes a compelling and dramatic experience that is powerful stuff. Although this is, at times, overwritten and affected--almost a parody of Hemingway--it will be new and unforgettable to today's readers. --Marjorie Lewis, Scarsdale Junior High School, NYC
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I really enjoyed reading Canyons but I also live in the Tularosa Valley where this book was supposed to take place. It made me want to delve into research of the Mescalero Apache culture and traditions. I also marveled at how it was not so long ago in history that the Apache roamed this valley freely without the reservation. I have purchased other books now on learning about the Apache and plan on attending some of their festivities in the future.

Canyons was a good book, but I wouldn't say it was fantastic. The narration on the tape was very nice - not dull like many I've heard before. However, although the one I ordered was "unabridged," it did skip whole paragraphs in the book (my students followed along with the tape). This was confusing at times. I suggest that any TEACHER using the tape to supplement their own classroom reading look for a CD version!!!!

This is a story of a bond that forms between Brennan and Coyote Runs. The only problem they are separated by a two hundred year span of time. The alternating chapters made me feel like I was reading two books which was great. This is another great adventure story by Paulsen. I love his writing style, and I love Brennan's journey to put Coyote Runs to rest.

I'm teaching this novel within a unit on Native American folklore/literature to middle school students. Paulsen relates to the struggles of adolescents today in a compare/contrast of a past culture.

It was an easy read. My students liked the story but it was not my typical genre. My students are

liking the mystery of the skull. T by e boys can relate to the main character. Overall good read.

Bought for my son and he said it was very good. He hasn't read a book in several years and said he couldn't put it down, read it right through. Says the author knows how to capture the reader.

one of my favorite Paulsen books.simple story of two young men trying to reach manhood in a parallel story with a twist. i enjoy Paulsens' clear and straightforward presentation of each young man and the trails he faces in his growth to manhood

cool\

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