

# The Future

## Exploring the World of Work

### Before You Read

#### Think about your experiences

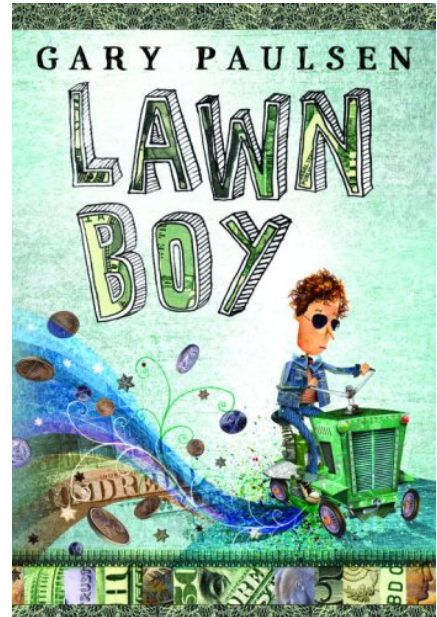
Think-Pair-Share: Think about your experiences then share with one person near you. Both of you turn to the nearest pair and share your combined experiences.

1. Do you know teenagers who get jobs after school, on week-ends or during school holidays?
  2. List the advantages and disadvantages of working when you are a teenager.
  3. Would your parent’s hire a teenager to do a job at your house? Why? Why not?
  4. What are the best jobs for teenagers in your neighborhood?
- .....

# Lawn Boy

By Gary Paulsen  
Wendy Lamb Books, Random House Children’s Books  
2007.

**Background:** On his twelfth birthday, Arnold’s grandmother gave him his grandfather’s old riding lawnmower. Since it was summer time and school was out, Arnold thought that he could make a little extra pocket money by mowing lawns. First, one neighbor asked him to mow his lawn and when Arnold finished, he gave him \$20 for the job. Other neighbors asked Arnold to mow their lawns too. Soon he was mowing more lawns than he could realistically do in a week. Then he met Pasqual who helped him expand his lawn mowing business. Read this selection to find out what happens next.



**Reading Strategy:** All the titles of chapters in this book, *Lawn Boy*, use expressions from the field of economics. These expressions may be unfamiliar but with a little word analysis we may be able to figure out how the title relates to the chapter that follows. For example:

### Chapter 7: Overutilization of Labor Compounded by Unpredicted Capital Growth

Let’s look at the smaller words within the big word “**overutilization**”

Prefix	Root word	Suffix
over	utiliz(e)	ation

*Over* is a prefix that has lots of meanings, usually it is thought of as *in excess of, more power, above, to exceed or surpass, do it again, etc.* Many meanings exist for this prefix, can you think of more and provide sample sentences for them?

Utiliz(e) is a verb meaning to “put to use, especially for practical or profitable use.” (www.dictionary.com)

When a verb like *utilize* has an “ation” suffix added at the end, it changes the verb into a noun showing action or a condition.

Putting all the parts of the word together, what do you think *overutilization* means?

“exploitation to the point of diminishing returns” *noun* [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com) (Could be in Teachers’ Manual)

There are five words left to be defined in this title to gain an understanding of the story to be told in the chapter. Break into 5 groups in the class. Each group selects one word and discusses the definition. If it can be analyzed in parts use that strategy. The whole group must agree on the final definition of the word. Use a dictionary to check the meaning of each word.

“Labor”      “Compounded”      “Unpredicted”      “Capital”      “Growth”

**Read the title again. What do you think the chapter will be about?**

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**Interesting New Words in the Story**

As you read the story, make a list of vocabulary that your *students* may not know but should be introduced to them before they read the story:

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ |

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**Comprehension Questions after Reading Chapter 7:**

1. Why was Arnold pleased that it was raining today?
2. Do you think Arnold understood how successful he was? Why?
3. What could be Pascual’s motive for helping Arnold with the lawn mowing business?
4. Is Pascual really helping Arnold do the right thing for his employees or does he have another motive?

**More Word Study:**

All chapter titles in *Lawn Boy* use unfamiliar economic terms. Can you use your word analysis skills to figure out what these chapters might be about:

Chapter 1: The Principles of Economic Expansion

Chapter 4: Capital Growth Coupled with the Principles of Production Expansion

Chapter 6: Economic Expansion Combined with Portfolio Diversification

Chapter 9: Conflict Resolution and Its Effects on Economic Policy

Chapter 11: Business and the Art of Creative Misrepresentation

**Learning about Literature**

In this chapter, the author gives examples or compares the current situation with parallel situation. In small groups, locate some examples or comparisons in the text. Discuss if these help the reader better understand the story. What makes them useful for understanding the story?

**About the Author:**

Gary Paulsen is an outdoorsman. His favorite sport is dog sledding; he has competed in the 1,150 mile Iditarod Trail Dog Sled Race in Alaska three times. When he is not racing he writes books for young adults. He has written over 200 fiction and non-fiction books. Many have a nature theme and focus on how youth overcome life's obstacles.



Mr. Paulsen is a master storyteller, he has written over 200 books and magazine articles. Three of his books, *Hatchet*, *Dogsong* and *The Winter Room* were designated as Newberry Honor Books, a very distinguished award for young adult books.

**Unit Follow-up**

**Starting your own business or working for someone else?**

Describe the differences between working for someone and being self-employed. Write a paragraph describing which you would choose and why?

	Working for someone else	Being self-employed
Advantages		
Disadvantages		

**Resources**

Moneyopolis Game: Where money sense rules. <http://www.moneyopolis.com/new/home.asp>

The U.S. Treasury website for kids to learn about money <http://www.ustreas.gov/kids/>

A funny poem about Economics around the World <http://suzyred.com/jokeeconomics.html>

Young Investor website with games and puzzles <http://www.younginvestor.com/kids/playIt/>

Junior Achievement [www.ja.org](http://www.ja.org)