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The winter room is where Eldon, his brother Wayne, old Uncle David, and the rest of the family gather on icy cold nights, sitting in front of the stove. There the boys listen eagerly to all of Uncle David's tales of superheroes. Then one night Uncle David tells the story, "The Woodcutter, " and what happens next is terrible--then wonderful.

The Winter Room Details

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From Reader Review The Winter Room for online ebook

Tayden White says

The problem is that when Wayne went all crazy to Eldon about how Uncle David was trying to make himself look good in the stories that were obviously about him. He kept saying "LIAR, LIAR, LIAR", and didn't even realize that Uncle David heard the whole thing. When Uncle David heard Wayne say that he was trying to make himself look good, to brag, it broke his heart. From then on Uncle David didn't tell any stories. I think that Wayne's actions were wrong in saying such hurtful things about Uncle David, especially if he meant to say it behind Uncle David's back. First of all, you shouldn't think something is a lie just because it is a little odd. Life would be hard if you didn't believe every little thing that seems even a bit unnatural or hard to do. Still, I'm happy Uncle David proved him wrong, to actually clarify the fact that he could actually do what he claimed the man in the story (or him) could do.

Nicholas Papavero says

The mother and father are my characters to talk about. The father listens to some of Uncle David's stories. The mother was not really involved in the book. Also, the father works in the barn a lot by dissecting farm animals for food to survive. The mother, Verlie, went in the barn and was basically doing the cooking, keeping the house nice, also known as cleaning. That is info about the mother and father of the book called The Winter Room. Five star rating. Gary Paulsen is a very detailed author. Some parts of the book made me gag, some other parts made me hungry and some parts were pretty shocking and rough.

Gracie14 says

The character Eldon is in the character group of people who hate killing season on the farm and don't like it when people jump to hurtful conclusions about other people. I say this because when Eldon's brother Wayne called Uncle David a liar for telling them fake stories and putting himself in the stories, he stepped on his brother's leg when he was swinging from the rope that hung over the hayloft, and started to fight his brother and to make his brother say he was sorry for what he said. He ended up with a bloody nose and a few other things.

kyle giacobello says

Uncle David was an old hunched man that overreacted to little words. He told fairy tales and was addicted to bad things. He overreacted when Wayne called him a liar and he never told a story then Eldon got raged and let it all out on Wayne and saw something through the crack... It was Uncle David and he picked up two axes and Eldon was saying to himself don't do it... But Uncle David did it but he seemed younger and he proved he wasn't a liar.

Allison Brenner says

My section was special language.

The author talked like they did back then. When he published the book it was how they talked but now it's seen a little different. A few similes I found were as straight as a die. That was compared to how they had to plant seeds in a nice row, like the number 6 on a die. Another simile was I was so tired my brain was filled with rags. That was the main character Eldon talking about how he spent a hard day working throughout the summer and he was very tired.

In this book it had quite a lot of personification. One that stood out was there was music coming out of the saws. That one stood out because it was what the problem was. Not believing that the uncle could actually do it and he did. He did it so well he became your again and the saws were playing music in awe.

This book had special language all over the place by showing not telling. I now have my own view of what everything looked like in my opinion.

Ally Peterson says

To me most of the interesting parts are at the end of the story. Most interesting part in my opinion is the stories that Uncle David tells. My favorite story that he tells is the story of crazy Alen. The reason that's my favorite story is because it's about a man named Alen who pulled pranks and jokes on everyone at his camp. On one day when he knew he was about to die he lay down on the floor and opened his door when it was freezing outside. He laid down on the floor with his arms and legs wide open so the foreman (his friend) wouldn't be able to get him out. When the foreman came he saw Alen laying on the floor frozen. He's realizing Alen spread and arms and legs open wide open so that he wouldn't be able to get him out. He had an idea to get him out. He used an ax and cut the door wider open so he could get Alen out. When he did get him out he cartwheeled him down to town and prepared the funeral for him, and that's the story of crazy Alen.

Silvestre Rodriguez says

*** SPOILER ALERT*** Have you ever read a book that left you shocked or surprised because of how the book ended up being? If not this is the book for you. The genre of this novel is fiction.

This book is about a young boy named Eldon, who lives on a rural farm in Minnesota. Eldon the narrator of the story and also the main character lives with his older brother Wayne, his parents and two men named Uncle David and Nels. The story takes place during a year, where the author describes the seasons, the weather and life on the farm. The story talks about the problems Eldon has with his brother, Wayne. The boys disagree on how things should be done, but in the end they work it out. The book also talks about different problems on the farm. The conflict of this story is person vs. nature because they have to deal with a lot of things that are happening in the farm and every season they face different challenges because of the weather change.

I can relate to the characters Wayne, and Eldon, because me and my sister argue all the time when we're trying to get something done because we always look at stuff with different views, but at the end we always get the assignment done. Like in the text it says "Wayne you milk her!" "No we can get this done faster if you just do it!" He told me. "That's it let's just do it together!" I exclaimed. I wish that the author would have

done a little bit more to at least move us readers but for the most part it was pretty calm all book long.

The point of view of this book is Eldon's because he is the only one who tell us and talks to the readers about all the seasons on the farm. For example in the text it says " Wayne is MY older brother". That right there says that the book is him talking. There for this book is 1st person point of view. Also if I was the author I would put a second part in the book almost like a chapter in Wayne's point of view just so I can see the differences both boys have.

All in all I rate this book a 3 out of 5. The reason being is because it got pretty slow or boring some parts and I just can't take that in books, also because I do not like the idea of the uncle telling the story's I would have liked to seen Wayne telling them just because he was also a big character in this book. I would recommend this book for readers that take there time and not just fly by through the book because you might miss some really interesting things. I'm not going to lie I also missed some things also, so I went back and reread. So In conclusion if you like books that leave you with that thought In the back of your head " wait what he did not"! Then this is the book for you!

Brian Pineda says

The book was ok. The only parts I like was when they would go out in the cold for food and it was interesting what weapons they used. Also how they would build in the cold.

Molly says

Great, short read! I read this for my children's literature class, and although parts of it were morbid and unsettling (such as the story about Crazy Alen) I think the mix of raw, harsh reality combined with the 'through the kid's eye' viewpoint allows children a totally relatable way to be exposed to the harsh realities of life. I'm having a hard time identifying a theme, which may take some Googling around a bit, but I rather enjoy books where the theme isn't slapping you in the face by the ending of the book....

Cesar says

This book is about a young boy named Eldon, who lives on a rural farm. Eldon lives with his older brother Wayne, his parents and two men named Uncle David and Nels. The story takes place during a year where the author describes the seasons,the weather and and life on the farm. The story talks about the problems Eldon has with his brother, Wayne. The boys disagree on how things should be done, but in the end they work it out. The book also talks about different problems on the farm. There are many important themes in this book. Some include family, friendship, love for animals, and work ethic.

This is good story, but sometimes it is very slow. There is not a lot of action. I would like recommend this book to middle school students. Especially boys who may be having problems with their families.

Kitty Tomlinson says

Tells of the winter room where Eldon, his brother Wayne, old Uncle David and the rest of his family gather on icy cold nights, sitting in front of the stove. There the boys listen eagerly to all of Uncle David's tales of superheroes.

Then one night Uncle David tells the story, "The Woodcutter," and what happens next is terrible--then wonderful.

Loved this book. Love Gary Paulsen's writing. Brought me into the cold, icy winter nights. Paulsen was also correct in his foreword where he wrote, "If books could be more, could show more, could own more, this book would have smells..." Oh, so true!! Thank you, Mr. Paulsen!

Kathy says

I have an 11 year old neighbor who likes to recommend books for me to read. These are books that he has read and thinks I also would enjoy...so if he recommends a book, I will read that book. The Winter Room is a Newberry Medal Honor Book from 1989. It is the story of a family living on a farm in rural Minnesota and is told by the youngest member of that family, an 11 year old boy named Eldon. Eldon lives with his older brother, his parents and two elderly uncles. One full year living and working on the farm is told by each season in descriptive detail. The life cycle is depicted in many ways through their crops and their animals and even their home life. There is rejuvenation as the seasons change both on the farm and within the family. Gary Paulsen must have lived on a farm at some point in his life, for the details and descriptions are extraordinary.

K. says

Read aloud contender, 12/13 school year. A maybe, but probably not.

I'm deciding I'm not a huge Paulsen fan. He reminds me too much of Jack London and his view of the world, which I don't love. I don't hate, either, it's just not my style.

This book is actually really good, and I would recommend it for a lot of reasons. I'm reading all these "read-aloud" contenders with mixed kids 8-11 and the 8 yo little girlies in mind, I don't want to scare them or distress them in any way. That sort of short-changes the older kids, but I'm also sure I can find great books that will appeal to all of them.

Anyway, the "Fall" chapter is the one that places this book way down on the list for me. The narrator is terribly upset by what happens in the fall on a farm: the killing. There are a lot of "blood" words and "killing" and it's all very imaginable and quite distressing, as is the purpose, because the child narrator is distressed by it. Of course, it is a part of life and must be done, and the author didn't put any kind of bias on the situation other than "it happens." All this is totally okay for anyone to read, but I think I'll pass on reading it to other people's children!

One thing, the "leader" on the back of this edition I found to be quite misleading, as if some big, cataclysmic thing happened--wasn't the case at all (sorry if that was a spoiler).

Otherwise, there's some humor, some nice things about life, some farm realities that might be particularly interesting to city kids, some fun Norse fireside stories, some good family relationship type things.

Probably the greatest thing I am taking away with me came not from the text of the novel, but from the author Q & A at the back.

Q: What led you to writing fiction for young adults?

A: I think and have always said that it is artistically fruitless to write for adults. They're already set in their ways, but young people are so much more open to new ideas, new experiences.

Isn't that so true? Food for thought. Why then, do so many adults spend so much of their time in YAF? And what then, is ideal reading material for our so very impressionable young people?

Ethan Miller says

There is a lot of special language in the winter room such as "he seemed to stare a hole though him". The immense amount of special language it the story really shose that it was along time ago. Also, it made the book a lot better such as when he said " she cuts though the ground like butter", but the author could of said they cut though the ground. To add on the first one in the last sentence has more detail making the book better and more interesting.to concluded the special language in the Winter Room made it more interesting to read.

Kirk says

This book reminds me of the washcloth that my dad used to clean himself when we ran out of toilet paper, but that's a good thing.

I re-read this from time to time just to remind myself of simpler times. The good old days when I used to run the wood splitter with my dad, or clean out septic tanks with him in the mid summer heat. Dad was invincible back then. Anyone who can wade knee deep in a pile of human excrement has earned my respect for life.

Now I'm older, and, like everyone, I realize my parents aren't perfect. I think back to when my mother waved a brown washcloth in my face and demanded I tell her who gave me chocolate without her permission . . . and my father listened from the other room for a solid ten minutes before piping in, "that's mine. I couldn't find the \$#!t paper."

Yeah, parents aren't perfect. Grandparents aren't perfect either. But acknowledging their faults isn't chopping them off at the knees. And there are moments when their greatness still shines through. That's what Paulsen's The Winter Room is all about for me.

Naomi Campbell says

This book eased me back into the days of old-fashioned living. Homemade everything, self-sustaining farming and working together, working hard, through all the seasons. There are awful things, and wonderful things, and in this book, there was also the winter room. You can cozy up with this book, which is a quick-read for a grownup like me, and remember reading Laura Ingalls books. The main character explains things from his own point of view, even though he knows there are things he doesn't fully understand, because he's just a kid. He's quite insightful, and there are funny antics, and some sadness. But also some great victories!

Meagan says

The problem is that Wayne is starting to believe the stories Uncle David say are real. Wayne told Eldon how he felt and called Uncle David a liar and a bragger. Although, some of the stories Uncle David say are true. Uncle David heard the whole conversation of Wayne talking to Eldon about how he felt. Uncle David was broken. he did not tell any stories for another few days.

Isobel says

In my opinion I liked Fourth grade rats better

Andrew Smith says

I really liked the book a lot. The lesson I learned from the book was that just because you think someone is lying doesn't mean they are. I thought this was what I learned from the book and I thought the book was really good.

Kristen says

This fictional book was very simple, but overall enjoyable. The book doesn't have an extremely clear or compelling plot, but focuses on the life of a young boy named Eldon, who lives with his older brother Wayne, his parents, and two older men named Uncle David and Nels. They live on a rural farm. The book goes through each season of the year, describing the weather, the farm life, and the traditions through Edon's eyes. There's not necessarily a driving plot, but he talks about the simple but real and difficult parts of a young boy's life. The narrator's voice is innocent and honest. While I enjoyed the book, and felt that the writing was well done, I didn't feel that this book would be very enticing to young readers. I didn't feel that the book was very cohesive; it doesn't have much of a plot until the end of the book, and even then it's not very compelling. I felt that the book seemed to lead up to the last chapter, suggesting that there would be some kind of a big climactic point but leaves off a little anti-climatic.
