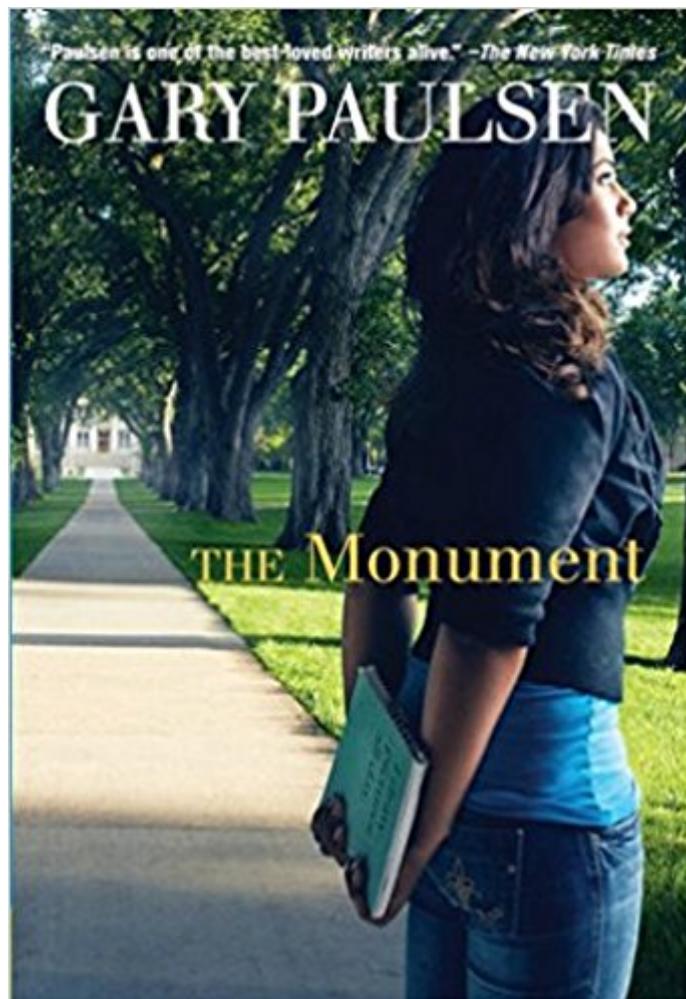


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# The Monument



## Synopsis

It all begins when Rocky follows Mick Strum around town while he sketches its people, animals and graveyard. Mick has been commissioned by Rocky's Kansas town to create a memorial to their war dead. As Rocky learns to respect Mick and his talents, he helps her to develop her own artistic sensibilities. It all begins when Rocky follows Mick Strum around town while he sketches its people, animals and graveyard. Mick has been commissioned by Rocky's Kansas town to create a memorial to their war dead. But the townspeople see things in Mick's drawings that they don't want to know or accept about themselves. Can Mick help them accept one monument that will be meaningful to everyone?

## Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Rocky, an adopted, partly lame teenage girl, tells how a memorial to her small Kansas town's war dead came to be built and how her vision and those of the other residents were altered by the monument's artist. When Rocky first encounters Mick Strum, he is filthy and disheveled, sleeping off a drinking binge in his dilapidated car. But she is magnetically drawn to this unlikely seer and from him learns to observe freshly and to develop an artist's eye. In contrast to Paulsen's customary

action-packed adventures, this novel is chiefly about ideas--featuring characters whose primary function seems to be expressing concepts about art and the artistic process. As such, the story has an over-intellectualized, sometimes pedantic air and may disappoint readers hoping for the gritty realism, veracity and raw power of Paulsen's best works. Ages 12-up. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 6-9-- Figuring she'll never get adopted because of her caramel-colored skin and crippled leg, Rocky finds herself chosen by Emma and Fred, a kind, indulgent, alcoholic couple from Bolton, Kansas. It's in Bolton that she finds her devoted dog, Python, who leads her to Mick, the rumpled artist hired to design a monument to the town's war dead and the person who changes Rocky's view of life, art, and the world. Through the drawings he makes in order to get a feel for the town's people and history, the citizens of Bolton see themselves and their surroundings in a new light, although they're not sure they like it. As Mick does with his sketches, Paulsen tells the story in quick, deft strokes. The gossip at the grain elevator on a summer day, Rocky's insecurities and toughness, and the varied characters are vividly yet succinctly conveyed. In just three days, Mick breezes into town, turns Rocky on to the power of art, and convinces the people of Bolton that a grove of trees will be an appropriate monument as well as an artistic statement. Avoiding a lot of artistic jargon, Paulsen carries readers along with his (and Mick's) strong images and enthusiasm. A powerful, affecting story with its comments on art and homage. --Susan Knorr, Milwaukee Public LibraryCopyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

When I was twelve, living in Hutchinson, Kansas in 1987 our outstanding sixth grade teacher, Mrs. Johnson, read *Dogsong* and *Foxman* aloud to the class in order to prepare us for a visit from the actual author to our school. I would've preferred Beverly Cleary at the time but I still remember the impressions I came away with after listening to the stories of Gary Paulsen. Flash forward to the year 2000 where I was introduced to this heartwarming book in a college class for elementary education majors. I've read it several times since then and even though Paulsen will never be my favorite author, the romantic figure he creates with the character of Mick and the sympathetic Rocky make this story very believable and just plain fun to read and revisit every few years. It's a very fast and easy read. The plot is weak and Gary's own free indirect discourse inserting his own subtle views about art and war are easily overlooked. Anyone ages 10 and up will appreciate this book but for all young boys I'd recommend some of Gary's other adventure and survival stories first if this is their

first introduction to his books.

I have read and reread *The Monument* countless times - most of the times out loud. Years go, I read it with my fifth grade classes before we went to Washington. I just finished reading it to a dear artist friend who is 85 years old. I wish my mother-an artist who railed against pictures of Elvis on black velvet-were alive to hear it too. When I decide it's time to move on from a photograph I have created, I remember Mick's words, "Done for now." I'd recommend this book to anyone who loves art. S. C. Larkin. (...)

best thing I bought for my classroom

book in good condition - delightful story, well written

Great book for 7th & 8th graders. It was a summer reading assignment for my now 8th grader. He enjoyed it and was able to relate his interest in art to the book's character.

First of all its start with a girl named Rachel but here nickname is rocky and she is a orphan in the orphanage and she haves a spared ankle because her mother was doing drags when she was in her stomach but in the orphanage no parent get her because of her leg and then she was adopted by the people that was taking care of the orphans and then the went to there home and Rachel release that the drank a lot then she was in school then she walk to town then she saw a dog with a full on chicken in its mouth then she remember that in school she saw a python ate a chicken with one bite so she called the dog python then they became best friend then they come along with the best artiest then he taught her how to draw then there was a meting about what should be the monument they were lots of argument in there but then they finally decided what should the monument be.

*The Monument*, a young adult book by Gary Paulsen, is the story of a recently adopted 13 year old girl who encounters an artist, Mick. This friendship changes her life. She looks at her small Kansas town through Mick's eyes and sees everything in a new light. Her leg brace and coffee-colored skin set her apart from the other kids her age so that a tag-along dog she adopted, Python, is her only companion. Mick gives her a book about Degas to study. The only way to read *The Monument* is to have Degas' prints beside the book. Paulsen writes: But even with that, even with the beauty, I was

still trying to work, trying to see the colors and the way Degas had drawn things until I turned the page and just stopped, stopped dead. It was a painting of a group of young women practicing ballet, called The Dance Master. The wall in the room was green and there was a big mirror on one side for the dancers to see themselves. In the background there is a raised platform or bleachers for people to sit and watch and dancers are everywhere, practicing, stretching, fixing their costumes. On one side there is an older man leaning on a cane--an instructor--and he is watching them, studying them, and still I would have been all right except for the girl. She was standing to the side of the dancers but almost in the middle of the painting and she is watching them, worried about something, with her hand to her mouth, and I looked at her and started to cry. She looked like me, or sort of like me, but that wasn't it--at first I didn't know why I was crying. Then I thought of what they were, all of them, dancers, and that all of what they were was gone. The painting was done in the late eighteen-hundreds. They were all gone. All dead. I wanted to know the girl, wanted to watch them practice. I wanted to see the dresses move and hear the music, wanted to know which ones the dance master picked for performance and if the girl who looked a little like me was one of them. I wanted to talk to them and ask them how it was to wear the costumes and dance and dance and dance without one stiff leg. I wanted to know their dreams and hopes...

"The Monument" by Gary Paulsen is a great book. It's about a girl named Rocky, who once was a orphan, but got adopted. She also meets a artist named Mick he shows Rocky a different perspective of people and the entire town whether it be good or not so good. Mick draws the town, but not everyone is ready to see a different perspective to themselves. I honestly love this book it has art concepts. If you like art this is the book for you.

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