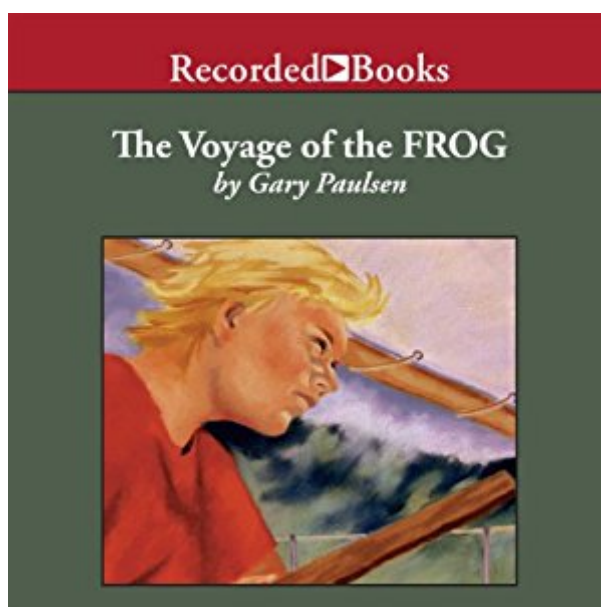


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# The Voyage Of The Frog



## Synopsis

"I am going to be cremated. I want you to take my ashes out alone on the Frog, out to sea alone, and leave me there. Take me to where you can't see land and scatter my ashes there on the water...." Fourteen-year-old David Alspeth is the owner of a 22-foot sailboat, an inheritance from his uncle Owen, who recently died of cancer. Uncle Owen's last request before he died was that David should take his ashes out to sea, a job David would give anything to avoid. When he finally sets sail on calm, clear evening, David feels the weight of what he must do all around him. He can't imagine life without Owen. David completes his task, but on the return trip home he is caught unawares by a freak storm. Stranded, with no compass, no radio, and only a few cans of food, it seems as if things couldn't get any worse. But they do.

## Book Information

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Whispersync for Voice: Ready

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## Customer Reviews

Many years ago I decided to find books that would work well for a 6th grade science class book club. I ran across this title and ordered it because I had read another book by the same author and liked it. What a wonderful surprise! This book is exactly what I was looking for in a book for my classes. I used it the first year on my list of books, but realized that it hadn't been published in a long time. Many of my students had a hard time finding the title in the library or in a store, so I reluctantly took it off of the list. I decided after that to read it aloud to my students instead. It is well-written, as most of Gary Paulsen's books tend to be. It contains many aspects of a great story for middle school students including an internal struggle in dealing with the death of a family member. There is also

the struggle between the main character and his parents when he tries to strike out on his own to follow the wishes of his uncle. Lastly, there is the struggle he has with nature to survive which is the reason I like this book for an Earth Science classroom. This book is perfect for a middle school student to enjoy!

This was a very interesting book and it had more action than I anticipated. This story is about a fourteen-year old boy who grants his uncle Owen his dying wish. When Owen dies David was left his boat. When trying to spread the ashes of Owen, David gets a taste of mother nature. David is stranded with little food and little water in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. After many close calls with everything from sharks to killer whales, David is given food and water from a research ship. He then starts on his journey back up the coast. I would recommend this book to teens who enjoy survival stories and action filled books.

David, a fourteen-year-old, is devastated. His favorite uncle, a man who lived nearby and always made time for him, the man who taught him to sail, is dead. They'd found the cancer when he went in to get a backache checked out, and just weeks later he died. His last wish was for David to have his sailboat, the Frog, and for David to take it out alone one day and scatter his ashes in the Pacific Ocean. When David goes to the Frog a short time later, he intends to sleep in it at the dock that night and then take it out the next day after checking the supplies and the weather. Instead, he is so moved by being on the boat among his uncle's things that he decides to sail out at night, his uncle's favorite time, and be back the next day. Without checking anything for safety, David leaves the dock and sails for hours, until land is nowhere in sight. He sails through the night and into the next morning before he decides he is far enough away to scatter his uncle's ashes. As he is getting ready to head back home, he notices waves in the distance that look funny. Before he can really prepare, David is in the middle of a giant storm that knocks him out, dislocates his shoulder and leaves him, over a day and a half later, dazed and lost in the ocean with few supplies. Thus begins his real journey. For the first time in his short life, David finds out what it's like to truly be fighting to stay alive. He learns to read the ocean and to trust himself. But will his determination and his new knowledge be enough to get him home safely? I liked learning along with David what would need to be done when lost at sea in a sailboat. I also liked the way David was able to deal with his uncle's death by spending time alone on his boat, figuring out how to stay alive. This situation seemed to speed up the process of grieving.

This book not only has action and adventure, but also a plot. The main character is David Alspeth, who journeys out to sea to scatter his Uncle Owen's ashes. But he gets hit hard with a storm and swept 315 miles away from his home in California. He passes many obstacles, like almost being hit by an oil tanker, and experiences many wonders, like befriending killer whales. But he makes it home and finally fulfill's Owen's dream. I thought this was a very good book for people who not only crave action but also Paulson's writing style. Things happened more in David's mind than in his boat, but this was a good action book none the less.

14 year old David has just inherited a small sailboat, the Frog, from his favorite uncle. A month earlier David and his uncle were enjoying themselves whether they were going out for a sail or just talking. Uncle Owen was in love with learning about everything and greatly enjoyed sharing what he had learned with David. Then Owen went to the doctor about a persistent backache and discovered that he had cancer. Within days his life changed from active days spent sailing to lying in a hospital bed dependent on morphine to manage the pain. His last wish was for David to take his ashes on a last voyage on the Frog, far out to sea out of sight of land. David decides to set out on his sad journey a bit earlier than planned and without making a final check on the weather. He is caught up in a storm and swept far off his planned course, injured and in danger of sinking. As David struggles to return home he learns many lessons about life and himself. This is an excellent adventure story, one that will keep the reader turning pages to see how David manages to survive. Although the reading level is about 4th grade the subject matter is a bit more mature, so I would recommend this one to the Middle School rather than Elementary set.

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