



THE CALL OF THE WILD

Jack London

Illustrated by Marco Somà

Teen  Readers

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Jack London

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Adaptation and activities by Silvana Sardi

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Characters



Buck



Dave



Spitz



Sol-leks



François



Perrault



Charles



Mercedes



Hal



John Thornton

Before you read

Writing

1 Look at the picture and complete the words.



- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| 1 R_N_E_S | runners |
| 2 S__D | load |
| 3 _US_Y D_G | harness |
| 4 _O_D | husky dog |
| 5 PA_ | paw |
| 6 _A__ESS | sled |

Grammar

2 Underline the correct alternative and complete the text.

The Call of the Wild (1) is/*speaks* a story about a dog (2) *called*/*name* Buck. At the beginning of the story, Buck is living (3) *in*/*on* California with Judge Miller and his family. He has a happy life and (4) *don't*/*doesn't* have to worry about (5) *nothing*/*anything*. Then, everything changes and Buck finds (6) *him*/*himself* in the north of Canada. Now he is a working dog, Buck has to learn (7) *to pull*/*pulling* a sled with a team (8) *of*/*from* husky dogs. Life in the cold North is (9) *hardly*/*hard* and (10) *very*/*much* different from his old one.

Word-building

3a Complete the table. Use a dictionary if necessary.

Adjective	Noun
	anger
beautiful	
dangerous	<i>danger</i>
	friendliness
frightened	
happy	
	hunger
thirsty	

3b Choose the correct alternative in the sentences below. Use the table to check your answers.

- 1 Buck's life in California is very happy/*happiness*.
- 2 He lives in a *beautiful*/*beauty* house.
- 3 His new life in the north is full of *dangerous*/*danger*.
- 4 Sometimes he is *thirsty*/*thirst*.
- 5 He finds it difficult to control his *hungry*/*hunger*.
- 6 When he wakes up he has a *frightened*/*fright*.

Far from Home

- ▶ 2 Buck, a big strong dog, lived happily in a beautiful farmhouse with Judge Miller and his family. He lived in the Santa Clara Valley, near San Jose, California. The land was good in this area and famous for its fruit. Buck was a friendly dog and he loved going fishing with Judge Miller's sons. Life was fun, but things were about to change for Buck. The Klondike* Gold Rush* had started, and Buck would soon be part of it.

All the newspapers were talking about the Gold Rush, but of course Buck couldn't read, so he didn't know anything about it. He wasn't interested in gold anyway!

The Miller family had lots of dogs, but at four years old, Buck was already boss. All the other dogs respected him and every member of the

The Klondike a region of the Yukon (Canada)

Gold Rush a time when lots of people were looking for gold



family loved him too. In summer, the Judge's grandchildren rode on his back, while in winter he sat quietly with Judge Miller in the library in front of a warm fire, where he felt safe and loved. He often walked with the Judge's daughters, and even swam with the boys in the pool in the garden.

Buck wasn't fat like some pets, he loved swimming and became stronger every day. Everybody loved Buck. Unfortunately, the gold-seekers* in the north needed a dog like him. Manuel, the gardener's helper, decided to sell Buck to make a few dollars. So, one evening, he took Buck for a walk when nobody was looking. Buck knew Manuel well and was happy to go with him. They went to the train station, where another man was waiting to give Manuel the money for Buck. The stranger put a rope* round Buck's neck and pulled it tight. Then the man put Buck on a train. The dog was very angry and bit the man's hand, but it was no use, he couldn't escape.

They reached San Francisco where the man gave Buck to another stranger. By now, Buck was very thirsty and hungry. He was even too tired to fight when they cut off his collar and threw him

a gold-seeker a person looking for gold

a rope a piece of very thick string

into a wooden crate*. He couldn't understand what was happening. "Why are they doing this to me?" he thought.

During the night, the man came to see Buck. Buck thought it was the judge, but barked* angrily when he realized it was the stranger. "Where is my master?" he thought sadly.

Next morning, four men came for the dog. They looked dangerous and Buck barked at them from inside the crate. They just laughed at him and put the crate on another train.

Buck now began a long journey which took him far from the peace and quiet of his home and the people who loved him. From the train, they moved him to a truck, then a boat, then finally a train once more. All this time, nobody gave Buck even a drink of water and he was weak and frightened.

Two days and nights passed, and Buck lay in the crate barking when anyone came near him. He was really thirsty now, and he was furious* with these men who were taking him away from everything he knew and loved. His eyes were red, he was dirty and angry, and he didn't look like

a crate a wooden box (see picture on p. 15)

to bark to make the loud sound a dog makes

furious very, very angry

the Buck Judge Miller knew. He couldn't wait to get out of the crate to try and bite these men. He no longer had the rope around his neck, but his throat hurt.

At last they reached Seattle, and the four men carried the crate into a small back yard* with high walls. Then, a man with a red sweater came into the back yard. He was carrying a hatchet* in one hand and a club* in the other. Buck knew he was in danger. The man hit the wooden crate with the hatchet to open it, and inside Buck pushed angrily against the breaking wood. He wanted out. He was like a wild animal, ready to attack.

"Come on then, red eyes," said the man, as he hit the crate once more and broke it open.

Buck jumped at him with a mad look in his eyes. The man hit Buck hard with the club and the dog fell to the ground. Buck tried again, but it was no use. Each time, the man in the red sweater hit him with the club. The man continued to hit Buck until the dog lay on the ground. When Buck looked up, the man was standing over him.

"Well, Buck", he said, "now you know who is boss. Be a good dog and you won't have any problems."

a back yard an area behind a building (see picture on p. 15)

a hatchet a tool for cutting wood (see picture on p. 15)

a club a big heavy stick



Then the man gave the dog some food and water. Buck had to accept that he couldn't fight against a club and a hatchet, he realized that now. This was the first lesson he learned in this new world.


Every day, new dogs arrived, and the man in the red sweater was ready for them with his club. Sometimes men came, gave the man some money and took a dog away.

"I wonder where they are going?" thought Buck.

Then, one day, a little man who spoke French came and chose Buck. The man was Perrault and he delivered letters and parcels for the Canadian government. He needed a strong dog to pull the mail sled* and Buck was perfect for the job. The man also bought another dog called Curly. He took the two dogs to the ship, where his friend François was waiting. There were another two dogs there, and they left for the cold North. The other dogs were called Spitz and Dave. Spitz was a big white dog who tried to steal Buck's dinner the first night. François punished Spitz, so Buck decided that this new master was a good man.

a sled the dogs are pulling one in the picture on p. 23

The other dog, Dave, was very quiet and wasn't interested in Buck and Curly.

As they went north, it got colder and colder. Then, early one morning, they arrived at Dyea beach, near Skaguay, in Alaska. This was where a lot of gold-seekers began their journey to the goldfields around Dawson in the Yukon, Canada. 

After-reading Activities

Reading

1 Match each description to the right person.

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|----------------------------|
| 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> f | He had a farmhouse in California. | a | The stranger |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | He sold Buck for a few dollars. | b | Manuel |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | Buck bit his hand. | c | François |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | He hit Buck with a club. | d | The man in the red sweater |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> | He took Buck to the ship. | e | Perrault |
| 6 <input type="checkbox"/> | He punished Spitz for trying to steal Buck's dinner. | f | Judge Miller |

Grammar

2 Underline the correct alternative.

- Buck loved fishing/fish with Judge Miller's boys.
- Buck couldn't read/to read about the gold rush.
- Manuel wanted sell/to sell Buck.
- Buck liked swimming/swim in the pool.
- Buck hated being/be in the crate.
- The man in the red sweater decided to give/giving Buck some food.
- Buck learned be/to be a good dog.

Vocabulary

3 Circle the odd word out.

- | | | | | |
|---|---------|----------|--------------|---------|
| 1 | loved | enjoyed | <u>hated</u> | liked |
| 2 | happy | furious | angry | worried |
| 3 | thirsty | friendly | hungry | tired |
| 4 | car | truck | train | boat |
| 5 | warm | strong | thin | fat |

Preliminary - Writing

4 Imagine you are Perrault. Write a letter to your boss and tell him about the new dog you have bought. Tell your boss:

- where you bought the dog
- why you chose him
- when you plan to leave


Write 35-45 words.

Before-reading Activity

Listening and Speaking

5a At the end of chapter 1, Buck arrives in Alaska. What will happen now? Work in pairs. Read the following sentences and decide if they are true (T) or false (F).

- | | T | F |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Buck finds everything strange. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Buck is happy to leave the ship. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 There is snow on the ground. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 The dogs from the other teams are friendly. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Spitz helps Curly. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Spitz and Buck become friends. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

 **3 5b** Now listen to the start of chapter 2 and check your answers.

Focus on...

The Klondike Gold Rush

The Klondike Region

The Klondike is a region in northwest Canada and is part of the Yukon Territory. This region has a subarctic climate, so it's extremely cold in winter. It usually snows from September to May and the rivers are covered in ice from October till spring.

Dawson city is on the Klondike River. It became famous worldwide for the Klondike Gold Rush in 1896. At this time, the population of Dawson grew to forty thousand. Then, after the Gold Rush ended in 1899, it went back to being a small town of 8,000 people.

The Gold Rush

During the Gold Rush, between 1897 and 1899, more than 100,000 people went to the Klondike region to look for gold. Gold was discovered there for the first time in August 1896, along the Klondike River. When gold started to arrive in the ports in Northwest America, people from Seattle and San Francisco heard about it, and rushed to the region in the hope of becoming rich. Newspapers started writing about the discovery of large quantities of gold, so lots of people left their jobs to go and dig for gold. It was a long hard journey to the Klondike, and they had to cross mountain passes with heavy loads. The lucky ones discovered mines full of gold, but the majority arrived too late. The gold rush in this region lasted until 1899. Then, gold was discovered in Nome, Alaska, so everybody moved there.

Trails

Most people arrived in South-east Alaska at the ports of Dyea or Skagway (originally Skaguay). They then had to take the Chilkoot or White Pass trails to the Yukon River. At this point, they had to make themselves a boat and sail downriver to the Klondike. The Canadian government made the gold diggers bring a year's supply of food with them. This meant they had a heavy load to carry, so it was very difficult and not everybody reached the mines.



Historic miner's cabin.



Miners outside a gold mine.

The Chilkoot Trail

This was the most direct overland route to get to the main area of the goldfields around Dawson City and the Yukon River. It was also one of the cheapest ways to get there, so it became very popular. Those who chose the Chilkoot Trail started their journey from Dyea. This route was shorter than the others, but it was also more difficult because it was very steep.

The White Pass

This other main route left from Skagway harbor. It was longer than the Chilkoot Trail, but it wasn't as hard. This mountain pass, which still exists today, goes through the mountains which border Alaska and Canada. It starts from Skagway, Alaska, and leads to the lakes at the headwaters of the Yukon River.

Task

Internet research.

In 1848 another Gold Rush started in California. Find out:

- how long it lasted
- how many gold-seekers were involved
- what its long-term effects were

Test Yourself

Choose A, B or C to complete the sentences.

- 1 At the start of the story, Buck lived in an area good for
A agriculture B industry C oil
- 2 The gardener's helper who sold Buck was called
A Matthew B Martin C Manuel
- 3 Perrault and François worked for the _____ government.
A French B Canadian C United States
- 4 Which dog had only one eye?
A Dave B Sol-leks C Billee
- 5 What did Buck steal from Perrault and François one night when he was very hungry?
A fish B chicken C bacon
- 6 Spitz killed a _____ that Buck and the other dogs had wanted to catch.
A rabbit B wolf C moose
- 7 François and Perrault sold Buck and their dog-team to a man from
A England B America C Scotland
- 8 What did Hal carry with him?
A a hatchet B a knife C a book
- 9 Hal and Charles started their journey with
A ten dogs B twelve dogs C fourteen dogs
- 10 When did they first arrive at John Thornton's camp?
A spring B summer C autumn
- 11 At the end, Buck goes and lives with
A the Yeehats B the wolves C Judge Miller's family.

Syllabus



This reader contains the items listed below as well as those included in Levels A1 and A2.

Topics

Adventure
Betrayal
Courage
Respect
Love
The Wild

Connectives

so that, (in order) to
so, so...that, such...that
if
although, while,

Nouns

Countable and uncountable nouns with *some* and *any*
Abstract nouns
Compound nouns
Complex noun phrases

Verbs

Present Simple: including verbs not normally used in the continuous form;
Present Continuous; Past Simple; Past Continuous; Past Perfect Simple:
narrative, reported speech;
Futures with Present

Continuous, *going to* and *will*; modals: *could, must*.

Verb Forms and Patterns

Affirmative, interrogative, negative; Imperatives; Infinitives (with and without *to*) after verbs and adjectives; verb + *-ing* after verbs and prepositions; Gerunds as subjects and objects; Passive forms: Present Simple and Past simple

Functions

Discussing topics by asking and answering questions
Expressing personal opinion
Giving details of plans
Giving explanations

Stage 1

Charles Dickens, *Oliver Twist*

Maureen Simpson, *In Search of a Missing Friend*

Mark Twain, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*

Lucy Maud Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

E.A. Poe, *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket*

Stage 2

Maria Luisa Banfi, *A Faraway World*

Frances Hodgson Burnett, *The Secret Garden*

Mary Flagan, *The Egyptian Souvenir*

Robert Louis Stevenson, *Treasure Island*

Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*

Stage 3

Charles Dickens, *David Copperfield*

Anonymous, *Robin Hood*

Mary Flagan, *Val's Diary*

Maureen Simpson, *Destination Karminia*

Jack London, *The Call of the Wild*

Eli Readers is a beautifully illustrated series of timeless classics and specially-written stories for learners of English.

Jack London

The Call of the Wild




Buck, a happy, quiet dog living in sunny California, is kidnapped and sent north to begin a new hard life as a sled dog during the Klondike Gold Rush. Read about his adventures and the many problems he has to face in this new cruel world. Discover how he begins to change and how he responds to the Call of the Wild.

In this reader you will find:

- Focus on...*Jack London, Huskies, CLIL History: The Klondike Gold Rush*
- *A glossary of difficult words*
- *Comprehension activities*
- *Test yourself*

Tags

Adventure Courage The Wild

 Stage 1	Elementary	600 headwords	A1	Movers
 Stage 2	Pre-Intermediate	800 headwords	A2	Flyers/KEY (KET)
 Stage 3	Intermediate	1000 headwords	B1	Preliminary (PET)

Classic - American English



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