

The Call of the Wild

Teacher Key

Chaper I : AInto the Primitive® (pp. 1-13)

1. Draw a picture of Judge Miller's place from the description in paragraph two. Essay: Describe your house.
2. How did Buck rule? (hunted, carried children, guarded)
3. Describe Buck. (140 lbs, 2 St. Bernard, 2 Scotch shepard)
4. Why did Manuel, the gardener, kidnap Buck? (pay gambling debt)
5. How did Buck react to the stranger's rope? (Buck fought, but lost)
6. Why was Buck going to Frisco? (dog-doctor)
7. Why did the strange men want Buck? (sled dog)
8. How did the four men treat Buck? (laughed at him)
9. How did the man in the red sweater in Seattle train Buck? Do you think that is the way to train an animal? (clubbed him)
10. Explain this sentence, "He was beaten, but not broken."
11. What happened to the one dog who didn't obey? (killed)
12. How much did Perrault pay for Buck?(\$300)
13. How did Buck and Curly, the Newfoundland get to Alaska?(Narwhal=boat)
14. How did Buck act in his first snow? (sniffed, licked it)
15. Why is this chapter called "Into the Primitive"?

Chapter 2: "the Law of Club and Fang" (pp. 14-24)

1. Why was Buck's first day in Alaska like a nightmare? (confusion, lawless)
2. How did Curly die?(attacked and killed by another dog)
3. Why did Buck hate Spitz?(leader)
4. How did Francois and Perrault work Buck? (sled dog)
5. How were the dogs Dave and Sol-leks alike? (both wanted to be left alone)
6. How did Buck sleep in the snow? (curled under the snow)
7. What was Perrault's job? (deliver dispatches)
8. Why was Buck hitched between Dave and Sol-leks on the sled-dog team?(to learn)
9. When Francois guided the sled, how did Perrault help? (webbed snowshoes)
10. Why was Buck always hungry, even though he received a daily ration of 1-1/2 lbs. of salmon? (bigger)
11. Why was it okay to steal in "The Law of Club and Fang"? Essay: Describe a situation when it is okay to steal. (survival)
12. Besides experience, how did Buck learn? (instinct)
13. Give examples of experience and instinct learning. (experience=checking wind, instinct=fighting)
14. Essay: Imagine and describe how Buck's life would have been if he'd stayed at Judge Miller's place.

Chaper 3: "The Dominant Primordial Beast" (pp. 25-40)

1. How did Spitz treat Buck? (enemy)
2. Why was the fight between Spitz and Buck interrupted? (starving huskies)
3. How did the nine dogs from the team spend the night after the husky attack? (in woods)
4. Why was Perrault worried about making the 400 mile run to Dawson? (dogs wounded, 2 rations gone)
5. Why did Perrault build a fire a dozen times a day? (50 below, freezing water)
6. Why wouldn't Buck get his ration of fish? (dog tired, sore feet)
7. Why did Buck refuse to rise and lay on his back with four feet in the air? (wanted foot gear)
8. How did Francois save Buck from mad Dolly? (axed her)
9. Why did Francois whip Spitz? (attacked Buck)
10. Why was there war between Spitz and Buck? (leader threatened)
11. Why did Francois whip Buck? (defending Pike)
12. Why did Buck howl in Dawson? (primordial)
13. Give examples of the rebellion against Spitz? (rob fish, Dub and Joe fought Spitz)
14. When was Buck joyful? (chasing rabbit)
15. How did Buck and Spitz's fight to the death happen? (Spitz killed the rabbit)
16. Why did Buck win the fight with Spitz? (imagination)

Chapter 4: "Who Has Won to Mastership" (pp. 41-51)

1. Why wouldn't Buck get into his old sled harness? (wanted leadership)
2. How did Buck behave as lead dog? (superior)
3. Why did Francois say that Buck was worth \$1,000? (broke two sled dogs in)
4. Why was the 14-day trip a record run? (40 miles per day)
5. Who took over the team after Perrault and Francois? (Scott half-breed mail runner)
6. Why didn't Buck like the mail run? (monotonous)
7. Why did Buck like laying by the fire? (dreaming)
8. Who was the hairy man in another world? (Neanderthal)
9. Why did snow slow the trip? (heavier pulling)
10. Why did Dave suffer most from the 1,800 mile run? (sick)
11. How did Dave die? (shot)

Chapter 5: "The Toil of the Trace and Trail" (pp. 52-69)

1. In what ways was the team in a "wretched state" when it reached Skagway? (limping, weight loss, tired)
2. If they'd travelled 2,500 miles in 5 months, how many miles did they average per month, per week, and per day? (500, 125, 18)
3. Why didn't Buck get a rest after the run? (sold)
4. Describe Hal and Charles? (Hal=19 year old brother, Charles=moustached husband)
5. Describe Charles's wife Mercedes? (weak, lady, foolish)

6. How were Hal, Charles and Mercedes unfit for the North?
(disorganized, unprepared)
7. Why shouldn't they take the tent on the trip? (overloaded sled)
8. Why couldn't the dogs pull the load? (tired, frozen)
9. How did the family take the advice, "Half the load, twice the dogs"?
(discarded essentials)
10. Why was 14 dogs too many? (not enough rations)
11. Why was this family doomed from the start of the trip? (no order or discipline)
12. Why did Hal go from overfeeding to underfeeding the dogs? (1/4 trip food 2 gone)
13. How did Mercedes, Charles, and Hal treat each other? (quarreled)
14. Why did Mercedes ride on the sled?(lady)
15. Why did Hal trade his gun for horsehide? (dog food)
16. Why were the seven remaining dogs describe as a "bag of bones"?
(starving)
17. Describe spring in Alaska (p. 65). Essay: Describe spring in Virginia.
18. Why did John Thornton advise them not to go on to Dawson? (ice unsafe)
19. What does the saying mean, "It was idle to get between a fool and his folly"? How did the family fit that description? (can't tell foolish people anything, because won't take advise)
20. Why didn't Buck get up no matter how much Hal beat him? (impending doom)
21. Why didn't Buck lead the family's dog sled? (Thornton intervened)
22. What finally happened to the family? (bottom dropped out of the trail)

Chapter 6: "For the Love of a Man" (pp. 70-85)

1. Why did Jim Thornton's friends leave him beside the river? (feet froze)
2. How did Skeet, the Irish setter, care for Buck? (licked wounds)
3. What did Jim Thornton arouse in Buck? (love)
4. How did the man and Buck express their love for each other?
(man=roughed him, Buck=bit)
5. Why did Buck follow Thornton everywhere? (feared losing him)
6. Why was Buck called more often into the forest? (call of the wild)
7. How did Buck react to Thornton's command to jump? (jumped)
8. What happened when Burton struck Thornton? (Buck tore his throat)
9. How did Buck save Thornton from the river? (swam to him on a rope)
10. How did Buck prove Thornton's boast was true? (pulled 1,000 pound sled)
11. Why did the odds go from two-to-one to three-to-one against Buck?
(sled frozen)
12. What words did Thornton use to command Buck to pull? (Gee! Haw! Mush!)

13. Why did an onlooker offer Thornton \$1,200 for Buck? (Buck pulled the 1,000 lb. sled 100 yards)

Chapter 7: "The Sounding of the Call" (pp. 86-106)

1. How did Thornton spend the \$1,600? (lost mine)
2. How did Thornton, Pete, and Hans get to the lost mine? (travelled by land)
3. In spring, what did they find instead of the lost mine? (found a broad valley)
4. What dreams did Buck have of the hairy man? (following him)
5. How did Buck respond to these strange desires? (ran free)
6. Who was making the night call? (timber wolf)
7. How was Buck rewarded by the wolf? (wolf wanted him to follow)
8. Why was Buck happy running with the wolf? (answering the call)
9. Why did Buck leave the wolf? (return to Thornton)
10. How did Buck survive for weeks while looking for the wolf? (hunted)
11. How was Buck transformed when he was in the wild? (killer)
12. Why was Buck successful in killing the bull moose? (persistence)
13. Why did the Yeehats flee the camp? (Buck attacked him)
14. How had John Thornton died? (Yeehat arrows)
15. Why was Buck ready to obey the calls from the wild? (John Thornton was dead)
16. When did Buck join the wolf pack? (after killing leaders)
17. Essay: Why is Call of the Wild a classic?

The Call of the Wild

Student Guide

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