

Student's name

Book title

Author of the book

The Call of the Wild by Jack London

The Call of the Wild remains one of the most famous novels written by Jack London, relating his experience as a gold digger in the Canadian wilderness to his views about the struggle for existence and nature as a whole. He attracts attention of the readers to various eminent personalities, including Charles Darwin and Friedrich Nietzsche (Zhang 281). Although *The Call of the Wild* is the first remarkable story about a dog, it also represents a philosophical intensity absent in the majority of animal adventures during the nineteenth-century Klondike Gold Rush in Yukon, a period when strong sledge dogs were in significant demand. *The Call of the Wild* is a powerful and successful story that helped Jack London to gain a readership throughout his career.

1 chapter. Gold has been detected in Arctic, thus everyone is rushing to the Northland. Humans are looking for strong dogs, which will be able to toil endlessly and resist harsh cold (London 1). Buck is the major hero of the Jack London's novel, who used to live in splendor in the house of Judge Miller in Santa Clara Valley. Other dogs are still present, but Buck is above all of them. He considers himself as the gracious master of everybody, including human beings. The entire realm belongs to him. Buck follows the Judge's daughters on walks; he hunts with Judge's sons, and carries Judge's grandchildren on his back. Buck knows neither pain, nor anger, nor hunger.

Although Buck is pleased with his life, he is not completely admitted being himself. Instead, he usually acts like one of the Judge's children rather than like a dog, playfully dancing around people looking for their attention. Despite the beauty of his environment and the idyllic character of his lifestyle, Buck's world appears quite lonely. His first encounter

with a kidnapper reveals that Buck's instinct for self-preservation has not been hardened by his defended lifestyle. Buck, who always cares and protects his humans, comprehends that this person should be eliminated in order to protect himself. People have never betrayed Buck. Consequently, he has grown to be accommodated to passive trust. Buck has grown up very quickly since he needs no protection of Judge Miller. In order to make Buck a symbol of mankind, the author gives him such features as love, revenge, loyalty, and ambition, which usually describe human beings. Humans no longer live in friendly relationship to each other or their dogs; they are either enemies or allies. Buck has to adapt to such challenges if he aims to survive in a cruel world.

2 chapter. Because of his adaptable entity, Buck quickly learns certain lessons, in particular, how to be less fastidious. He leaves behind his moral principles. He also used to steal food from other dogs. He learns how to fight from observing what has happened to Curly. He realizes that there is no fair play in the Arctic. A crucial topic of the novel: if one is accommodated, he/she will be able to survive. Buck decides that his moral nature has an ineffective aspect and is a handicap in the struggle for existence (London 24). He feels that he needs to change something in order to survive. Buck has regressed. With the fact of gone civilization, Buck becomes like a wild dog. Jack London wants to underscore the fact that each human is a puppet in his struggle for existence. When a human leaves civilization with his staff, he becomes similar to his predecessors.

The connection between a beast and a man grows stronger; the differences are more blurred. The roles of dogs and humans become more or less equal. Both are leaders of the same place in spite of various intents. Now Buck is part of a team of dogs who pulls the sled. These animals work together, better than any human beings who are ready to complete their tasks.

3 chapter. Life within the severe world of sled teams and towns of gold rush can be quite dangerous, as a death of Curly and Buck's rivalry with Spitz. Still, worse menaces hide beyond the frontiers of camps and mail routes like diversion and wild dogs. Hunger also threatens cruel enemies that have turned the wild dogs into an astonished team of half-mad, weird, and skeletal creatures (London 31). Hunger is not an exact threat to Buck since Perrault and Francois are conscious owners. When Buck starts caring of less experienced humans, an issue of hungry wild dogs portends the later experience with hunger.

Buck is a leader comparing to the other dogs because of his combination of human intellect and instincts. A consequence that he is on more from humans gives Buck benefits over most of other dogs. Dogs should use advantages in learning something from humans. People are less different from animals than they might like to accept. Humans aim to hunt, and their instincts to kill are inseparable from the animals' ones. People do not murder without reasons, and they used to think more than dogs do. Still, they are driven by blood lust and excited of a chase in the same way. In the gold rush world, humans and dogs grow in the same way. Their wild entity is awakened, and they are linked together by bestial aspiration to conquer, seize, and survive in the inhuman surroundings.

4 chapter. Finally, Buck becomes a leader in the dogs' army. Nevertheless, when he defeats Spitz, he does not get a leading position automatically. In reality, Francois and Perrault try to make Sol-leks as a leader. Buck refuses to accept it. Humans realize that Buck is much stronger and eventually put him in front of the dogs' team (London 50). The dogs' army works uniquely under Buck's leadership. They travel further and faster each day and reach Skagway in record time. In killing Spitz, Buck gains power over his human leaders, and forces them to comprehend their dependency on his cooperation. Still, Buck never goes too far in his rebellion. He encourages humans for their trust in him by proving that he is worthy of a leading position. Buck makes his rebellion up to humans by taking strong command of

other dogs. The Buck's victory over Spitz points his ascendance within the dogs' army. The team is not independent; thus it is still subordinate to the human orders. It is not enough for Buck to have murdered Spitz; his humans as masters should approve his great triumph.

Although Francois comprehends and respects hierarchical structure of dogs' society, his struggle with Buck reveals a barrier between dogs and human beings. Francois does not recognize the range, to which the dogs should be allowed to master themselves. When he accepts Buck's position and lets him take a leading position in the team, a man recognizes something about the relationship between a man and a beast. They are on an equal footing: Buck attempts to communicate, and Francois tries to comprehend him. It suggests that human beings are more or less deceived in their assurance of eventual control. Perrault and Francois were not able to defend their dogs when the wild huskies attacked them. Now they cannot master Buck. The dog has learned how to get his own way.

5 chapter. The team travels to Dawson in order to deliver mail, and they are on the return trip to Skagway. Deadly tired dogs have become thinner and weaker because of the lack of adaptability. Comparing to them, Buck survives and prospers since he has learned how to adjust to the natural environment. In Skagway, the dog team is cheaply sold to Hal, Charles, and Mercedes, who are unable to survive in a wild world. They overload the sled with unnecessary staff and poorly pack it. Dogs cannot move a sled (London 64). Still, humans require the dogs to travel further in spite of the fact that they are exhausted and close to death. A sled overturns in a rough place in the snow and the dogs are mistakenly beaten.

In order to help the dogs pull the sled, humans decide to buy six outside dogs, but they are inexperienced and cause problems (London 67). The entire team is starving, and the six new dogs die. Thanks to the Buck's leadership and efforts, the team reaches John Thornton's camp. After a short rest, humans are ready to harness dogs and go forward. However, Buck refuses to move on; thus he was brutally whipped by Hal. Thornton comes to rescue Buck,

stating that a dog is too exhausted and close to death. Thornton advises people not to travel forward because the ice starts melting (London 75). Humans scoff at John and continue a travel. The ice has broken beneath the sled's weight of the sled. The men disappear.

6 chapter. Buck reveals what it means to be admired by both a dog and a man. John Thornton is a kind, ideal, and loving master, who cares for his dogs as if they were his children. He has created a camp in the Yukon since his feet were frozen during the harsh winter in December, and his allies left him behind. Because he is one of the adjusted human beings, he has survived. Soon Buck will recover from his weakened state. John Thornton kindly greets all the dogs and always pays attention to them. For the first time Buck feels genuine and passionate love and openly demonstrates his adoration for Thornton. With Judge Miller and his sons, the partnership was based upon 'take and give'. Buck realizes another point for himself – the lesson of love given and love received freely, without any obligations. When John rescues Buck, he spends much time caring for him.

It is the first time in his life, when Buck feels so much love; in return, he has an excited admiration for John Thornton, whom he considers a perfect master. In two different cases, Buck risks his own life to save a man. He feels that he can save a human being from a sure death (London 95). Moreover, Buck saves John's reputation when he pulls a highly loaded sled so that his owner can win a thousand dollar bet. In spite of all the love Buck feels for Thornton, he cannot forget the lessons he has learned about the wild world. In fact, one should master or be mastered, murder or be murdered, eat or be eaten. Buck does not want to lose his primitive identity or become softer. At night he hears the call of the wild, and only his love for John holds him back.

7 chapter. By pulling the sled, Buck has won sixteen hundred dollars for John Thornton and also has gained a reputation for himself. His fame seems to have spread throughout Alaska (London 97). Still, Buck is torn between the call of the wild and attractive

John's love. He enjoys Thornton's travel in search of lost gold that humans have been searching, and nothing was found. When Buck runs with his brother, he recognizes for the first time what that call of the wild indicates. Although Buck again chooses John Thornton, it is clear that this case cannot last endlessly. In spite of love to Thornton, Buck and John are in constant conflict between each other. Only Thornton's death could free Buck from his feelings of divided loyalties. Eventually, Buck takes revenge on the Indians, who murdered Thornton, when he was left unprotected. Buck was very proud of killing an enemy (London 115).

The dog realizes that his dependence on human friendship is wrong. Dogs do not need humans to survive since dogs are quite stronger in comparison with human beings. Though Buck's devotion to the wolf pack is genuine and strong, Jack London leaves a challenge of the relationship between a man and a dog unrevealed. For all his savagery, Buck never stops loving John Thornton. At the same point, it is obvious that Buck should never have been tamed.

The rules of uncivilized and civilized worlds are greatly different. The novel emphasizes that what is essential for both worlds is to comprehend and follow all the rules which one world has established. When rules are violated, then human beings observe genuine wildness and disregard for life. Mercedes, Hal, and Charles come to the wild world with little acknowledgement of the rules anyone should follow in order to survive or become integrated (London 70). Their inability to ration food in a correct way, their dependence upon their extremely useless guns and knives, and their disrespect for the dogs' pain and suffering refer to the laws of savagery that they ignore or simply misunderstand. As a result, the savagery generates a natural effect for their actions. *The Call of the Wild* displays a character of humans' lives from the social perspective. There should be one law in the whole world, which both beasts and human beings comply (Zhang 281). Only the adjusted individuals can

survive in a competitive world. Buck's struggle towards independence symbolizes the challenges and struggle any human being can face in the life. Modern people should learn something from Buck as a dog who highly progresses towards independence after learning how to survive in a cruel world.

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