

# The Call of the Wild

Jack London

## The story step by step

- 1 Listen to Chapter 1 (from 'Judge Miller's place...' to '...he never forgot it.'). List the parts of the body that you hear. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.10–13 of the book or in the answer key.

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- 2 Listen to Chapter 2 (from 'Buck's first day...' to '...lay Billee'). Tick the sentences you hear. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.17–19 of the book or in the answer key.

- a Buck's first day in Canada, on Dyea Beach, was wonderful.
- b *Everything here was very different from his quiet life in the sunny Santa Clara Valley.* ✓
- c The dogs did what they were told so that their masters did not hit them.
- d That first day, Buck learned a lesson that he soon forgot.
- e Spitz opened his mouth and made a laughing sound, and from that moment, Buck loved him.
- f He had learned that once you fool around, you are finished.
- g François put him in a harness and made him pull a sled.
- h Spitz was the leader – he was at the front of the dogs – and he could bite Buck.
- i Buck learned slowly, and even with Spitz, Dave, and François teaching him, he was making mistakes.
- j Perrault worked for the Canadian government, taking things for them from one place to another, across the snow.
- k Billee was kind and friendly, but Joe was an angry dog, and he was always growling.
- l He was an old husky with just one eye and his name was Sol-leks, which means The Lonely One.
- m Like Dave, Sol-leks asked for nothing and he gave nothing.
- n Buck went too close to Sol-leks on the wrong side on that first day, and Sol-leks bit him on the shoulder.
- o Buck lay down on the snow outside, there was a warm wind and he fell asleep.
- p There, in a hole under the snow, lay Billee.

- 3 Listen to Chapter 3 (from 'Life on the trail, ...' to 'Buck threw Spitz off, ...'). Match the beginnings of the sentences you hear (1–11) with the ends (A–K). The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.22–23 of the book or in the answer key.

1 Because he was still busy learning,	a and François brought out fish for the dogs.
2 He was worried	b and he jumped angrily on Spitz.
3 Dinnertime came,	c but they were too hungry to run away.
4 Buck was so warm in his hole	d from one of the Native American villages.
5 When he went back to his hole	e had come.
6 The wild animal inside him roared,	f he became even fiercer.
7 It seemed that the terrible day	g he found that there was another dog in it.
8 A big group of huskies had arrived in the camp	h he tried to stay away from fights.
9 They howled when the men hit them with their clubs,	i that he thought their skin would break.
10 They were so thin	J that he did not want to leave it.
11 When he felt the warm taste of blood in his mouth,	K that Buck would take his place as leader of the sled team.

- 4 Listen to Chapter 4 (from 'In Dawson, ...' to 'get caught.'). Underline the words below that you hear. Be careful! Sometimes you will hear both words! The first one is an example. Check your answers on p.27 of the book or in the answer key.

hard/hardly sang/song cold/coldly sadness/sad wild/wildly alive/life  
harden/harder load/loaded good/well run/ran fierce/fiercely clever/cleverly

- 5 Listen to Chapter 5 (from 'A Scottish-Canadian man' to 'growled softly.'). Complete the sentences from the chapter with the correct prepositions below. The first one is an example. Check your answers on p.32 of the book or in the answer key.

after ~~along~~ around at before by for in x 5 near of x 3 on to with x 2

- a They started back along the same old trail \_\_\_\_\_ Dawson.  
 b Buck did not like it, but he had pride \_\_\_\_\_ his work.  
 c They left \_\_\_\_\_ the dark \_\_\_\_\_ the sun came up and camped \_\_\_\_\_ night.  
 d But Buck fought \_\_\_\_\_ the fiercest.  
 e \_\_\_\_\_ he had eaten, Buck loved to lie \_\_\_\_\_ the fire.  
 f He moved like a cat, as if he was always afraid \_\_\_\_\_ something.  
 g He carried a long stick \_\_\_\_\_ a big stone \_\_\_\_\_ the end.  
 h Sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ Buck's dreams, the hairy man slept \_\_\_\_\_ the fire.

- i Buck saw black eyes \_\_\_\_\_ the circling darkness \_\_\_\_\_ him.
- j He heard the noise \_\_\_\_\_ bodies moving.
- k He knew that they were great animals \_\_\_\_\_ the night, looking \_\_\_\_\_ food.

- 6 Listen to Chapter 6 (from 'Three men...' to '...they really needed.'). Who said the following things, to whom and about what and/or why? The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.35–38 of the book or in the answer key.

Who says	this	to whom	about what and/or why?
<i>The man from the other tent</i>	<i>'Do you think it will move?'</i>	<i>Charles and Hal</i>	<i>The sled because it's too full.</i>
	<i>'Why wouldn't it?'</i>		
	<i>'Mush! Let's go!'</i>		
	<i>'Poor darlings! You must promise you will be good to them, or I won't come.'</i>		
	<i>'They're weak as water, if you want to know.'</i>		
	<i>'It's frozen in the snow, and you need to push it out.'</i>		
	<i>'Stop! Stop!'</i>		

- 7 Listen to Chapter 7 (from 'It was beautiful spring weather, ...' to '...from below.'). List all the signs you hear that spring has arrived. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.40–41 of the book or in the answer key.

*It was beautiful spring weather.*

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- 8 Listen to Chapter 7 (from 'John Thornton had been camped...' to '...Buck licked his hand.'). Write the direct speech you hear under the reported speech below. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.41–43 of the book or in the answer key.

- a Thornton told him that the ice was breaking.

*'The ice is breaking.'*

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- b Thornton told him that the bottom of the trail would fall out at any moment.
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c Thornton said that they had only got there with the luck of fools.

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d Hal told Thornton that they were going on to Dawson.

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e Hal told Buck to get up and mush.

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f Thornton told Hal that if he hit that dog again he would kill him.

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g Hal told Thornton to get out of his way and that he was going to Dawson.

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h Thornton called Buck a poor devil.

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**9** Listen to Chapter 8 (from 'That winter, ...' to '...come between it.'). Put these events in the correct order. The first and the last are done as examples. Check your answers on pp.48–51 of the book or in the answer key.

a Buck pulled the sled out of the frozen ice for a hundred metres. \_\_\_\_\_

b Everybody came out of the bar to watch Buck. \_\_\_\_\_

c Thornton bet a man a thousand dollars that Buck could pull a five hundred kilo load. \_\_\_\_\_

d Thornton borrowed one thousand dollars from an old friend. \_\_\_\_\_

e People cheered and threw their hats in the air. \_\_\_\_\_

f Somebody offered to buy Buck for twelve hundred dollars. \_\_\_\_\_

g Thornton asked Buck to pull the load because he loved him. \_\_\_\_\_

h Thornton fell on the ground next to Buck and put his face close to his. \_\_\_\_\_

i Thornton refused to sell Buck. 10

j Thornton was in a bar with some men talking about the things their dogs could do. 1

**10** Listen to Chapter 9 (from 'Because Buck won...' to '...with his teeth.'). List all the '-ing' verbs you hear. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.51–54 of the book or in the answer key.

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- 11 Listen to Chapter 10. Read the text below as you listen and correct the mistakes you hear. The first one is an example. Check your answers on p.55 of the book or in the answer key.

Buck began to sleep ~~inside~~ *outside* at night, staying away from the camp for weeks at a time. Once he went back up the gorge into the land of woods and waterfalls, and stayed there for a month, looking for the wild brother. He killed his meat as he traveled, and fished in the rivers. Near one stream, he killed a big, black deer, in a terrible fight that showed the fierceness he still had hidden inside him.

Buck's hunger for the taste of blondes was stronger now than ever before. He was a killer, living by heating the animals that he caught. Buck was living life at its worst in a hard world where only the weakest could stay alive. He was intelligent and clearer at getting what he wanted, and he had learned many useful lessons during his hard life in the Southland. All these things made him as great and wrong as any wild animal. His body was working perfectly. When he smelled or heard something, he could jump toward it or away from it twice as fast as any puppy dog. His muscles were as strong as gold, and every part of him was full of lift.

- 12 Listen to Chapter 10 (from 'He could feel that something...' to '...barking as he ran'). Answer the questions. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.57–60 of the book or in the answer key.

a Where did Buck find Nig?

*Lying dead under some trees.*

b What could Buck hear coming from the camp?

c Who did he find lying on his face with his body covered in arrows?

d Why was Buck so angry?

e What did the Yeehats hear?

f Were the Yeehats frightened of Buck?

g Who lay dead in the pool?

h How did Buck feel?

i What came into Buck's valley that night?

j Did Buck run away with the wolves?