



The Call of the Wild

Jack London

1. Read. Read this extract.

Buck was bigger than the other dogs and he was always hungry. François gave him a pound and a half of fish every night, but Buck always wanted more food. Also, Buck didn't eat as quickly as the other dogs, so they often took his fish away from him. After many days, Buck started to eat as fast as the others. And then he started to take other dogs' fish, too. One day, another dog, Pike, took some fish from the food box. Perrault didn't see him, but Buck watched carefully. The next day, Buck did the same thing.

Buck quickly learned the ways of the wild. And now he could live in this cold, unfriendly place. He wasn't the same dog—he was quicker, smarter, and stronger.

He was there, in the North, because Manuel wanted money. And men wanted gold. Now a new life began for Buck. He was a different dog—a wilder dog. On the cold, quiet nights, Buck looked up and howled at the dark sky.



This classic by Jack London was first published in 1903.

2. Read. Are the sentences 1-5 true, false or not given? Put a cross (X) in the correct box.

- Buck was the biggest dog.
- Other dogs stole Buck's food.
- Buck didn't take fish from the food box.
- Buck was different when he learnt the ways of the wild.
- All the other dogs were happy.

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3. Think. Discuss.

What does Buck have to do to survive?

4. Compare. Survival is difficult for humans too, especially in new surroundings. Look at these problems. What can you do to help? Write your suggestions.

- The new boy at school doesn't have any friends.
- Your best friend doesn't have any money for the bus home.
- Your classmate doesn't have a snack for morning break.
- Someone is bullying your friend.