

Call of the Wild by Jack London

Optional Guided Reading Questions

Chapter 1

1. In the beginning of Chapter 1, how is Buck described?
2. What important lesson did Buck learn from the man with the club? What is meant by the line, "It was his introduction to the reign of primitive law, and he met the introduction half way."?
3. How did Fancois begin to earn Buck's respect?
4. What is the significance of the title of this chapter?

Chapter 2

1. What are the "laws of club and fang" that Buck learned in this chapter? How are these laws different from what Buck was used to?
2. What is one thing that Dave and Sol-leks live for? What does this tell you about animal and human nature?
3. If you were Buck, which of the sled dogs would you choose to be your teacher?
4. What trait insures that Buck will survive in the north? How would this trait be accepted in his former life? What does this say about the differences in the two worlds?
5. In adapting to his new world, has Buck developed or retrogressed?

Chapter 3

1. Describe Spitz's character.
2. How do Fancois and Perrault display their true natures in this chapter?
3. How does Buck begin to undermine Spitz's authority? What were the effects of Buck's actions?
4. What does the author mean by "the dominant primordial beast"?
5. What traits have helped Buck thrive in his new world?

Chapter 4

1. Describe Buck's qualities as the new team leader.
2. Describe the man in Buck's dreams. What is the significance of these dreams?
3. What is the significance of Dave's death?

Chapter 5

1. What traits did Buck have that allowed him to adapt to the north that Charles, Hal and Mercedes lacked ?

2. What do Charles, Hal and Mercedes represent?

3. Why did Buck refuse to rise and lead the team? What did he have that his masters lacked?

Chapter 6

1. How did Buck's relationship with John Thornton differ from his relationships with his previous masters? How does Buck balance his love for Thornton with his more primitive self?

2. What does the author mean by the following quotation:

"He was older than the days he had seen and the breaths he had drawn."

Chapter 7

1. The author describes Buck's dreams of the primitive man: "The salient thing of this other world seemed fear." What does this mean? Why isn't Thornton's world filled with fear?

2. Why is Buck intent of befriending a wolf? What makes him break off their travels to return to camp?

3. What two animals does Buck fight with?

4. What does Buck learn from his slaughter of the Yeehats? Does this make his answering the call harder or easier?

5. What does Buck decide to do?