

# The Call of the Wild

Jack London

American English  
Classic

Buck's new life in the cold north of Canada is hard. He meets dangerous men and dogs in this snowy country. Buck is intelligent and strong. He must change to live, but can he learn to be happy?

Number of words (excluding activities): 9,280

Series Editors: Jocelyn Potter and Andy Hopkins

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Level 2	600 headwords	Elementary
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Jack London

LEVEL 2

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# The call of the Wild

Jack London



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## Minimum system requirements:

Windows ©  
2000/XP  
Pentium 350Mhz  
128 MB RAM

Macintosh OSX  
Power PC &  
Intel Processor  
128 MB RAM

Linux: GUN/Linux  
Kernel 2.6  
Pentium 350Mhz  
128 MB RAM

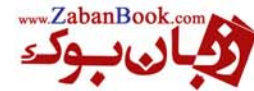


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Jack London

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Level 2

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Retold by Tania Iveson  
Series Editors: Andy Hopkins and Jocelyn Potter

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## 1.1 What's the book about?

1 Look at the picture on the front of this book and talk about it.

- What kind of dog is he?
- Where is he?
- Do you think he lives with a family or in the wild?

2 What do you think? Write these words below the pictures.

happy sad angry excited cold warm  
afraid hungry bored dangerous free wild



happy



## 1.2 What happens first?

Look at the picture and the words in *italics> on page 1. What do you think? Write the words in these sentences.*

- Buck is ..... a place a person a dog
- The weather looks ..... cold warm wet
- The house is in ..... Africa Asia North America
- The story begins in the ..... 1900s 1800s 1700s

## To the North

*Buck didn't know about the cold north, or gold—and he didn't know about Manuel.*

Buck was a strong dog with a thick coat. He lived in a big house, Mr. Miller's place, in sunny California. There were tall trees around the house, and there was a pool, too. Buck was four years old, and the Millers were his family. He swam with the boys and walked with the women. He carried the babies on his back, and at night Buck sat at Mr. Miller's feet. There were other dogs at Mr. Miller's house, but Buck was the most important. He was the boss there, and he was very happy.

That year, 1897, was an exciting year. Some men found **gold** in the cold Arctic north of Canada, and a lot of people followed them there. Everybody wanted gold. And they wanted dogs—strong dogs with thick coats. The dogs had to pull the gold through the snow to towns and rivers.

But Buck didn't know about the cold north, or gold—and he didn't know about Manuel.

**gold** /gould/ (n) *Gold* is expensive and yellow, and it comes from the ground.





Manuel worked for Mr. Miller, but he always wanted more money.

"I can sell Buck," he thought. "He's strong. Somebody will pay a lot of money for him."

One day, Mr. Miller was at work and the children were busy. Manuel put a **rope** around Buck's **neck** and left the house quietly. He met a man at a train station, and the man gave him money for the dog.

Buck didn't like this new man, and he started to **bark**. So the man pulled the rope around his neck very hard. This hurt Buck, and it made him angrier. He tried to fight the man, but the man pulled the rope again. The **pain** was very bad. Buck fell to the ground and his eyes closed.

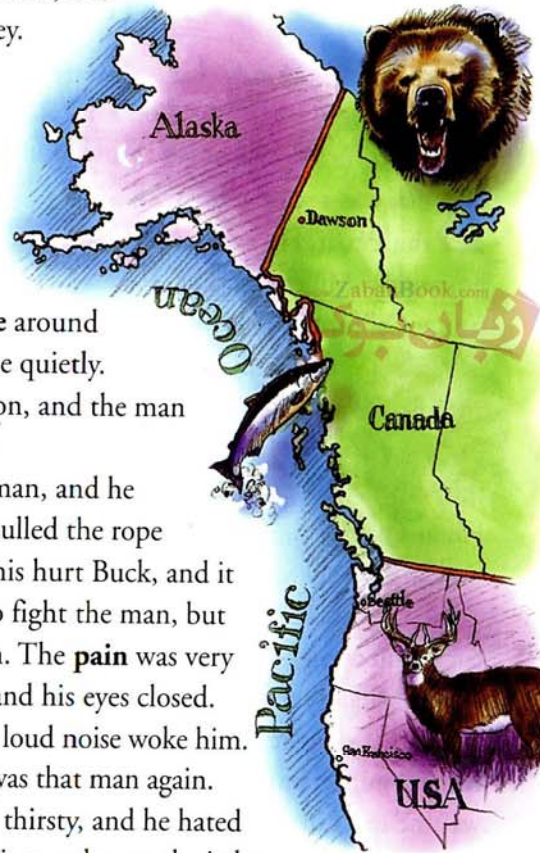
He opened his eyes when a loud noise woke him. He was on a train! And there was that man again.

Buck was very hungry and thirsty, and he hated the rope around his neck. He jumped up and tried to **attack** the man. But the man was quick, and pulled the rope. Buck's neck hurt very badly. Then the man put him in a box.

"Crazy animal!" he said.

When they arrived in San Francisco, the man left Buck, in his box, at a bar.

The next morning, four other men arrived and put Buck in a car. He barked angrily at them, but they only laughed. He was in the box in the



**rope** /roup/ (n) When you put a rope around an animal, you can control it.  
**neck** /nek/ (n) Your head sits on your neck.  
**bark** /bark/ (n/v) The bark of a dog is a short, loud noise.  
**pain** /peɪn/ (n) When you feel pain, your body hurts.  
**attack** /ə'tæk/ (n/v) An attack by a person or animal can hurt or kill you.

car for two days and two nights without food or water. He hated his box, and he hated the men. He wanted to kill somebody.

After a long time, they arrived in Seattle. Four men carried the box to a house and gave it to a man in a red shirt. This man had a **club** in his hand, and he looked at Buck.

"OK, I'll get you out of that box now," he said. He started to open the box carefully. Buck jumped up and barked. "Now, you crazy dog ... " the man said.

And Buck really was crazy now. He had fire in his eyes, and he wanted to kill. He jumped at the man: one hundred and forty pounds of angry, crazy dog. But the man suddenly hit him very hard with the club. Buck fell to the ground, and barked. Then he attacked again. Again the man hit him, and again Buck fell to the ground. The pain was very bad.

Twelve times he attacked, and twelve times the man hit him. In the end, Buck couldn't stand up. He couldn't see or hear. He was almost dead.



**club** /klʌb/ (n) A club is large, heavy and usually made from wood. You hit people or animals with it.