

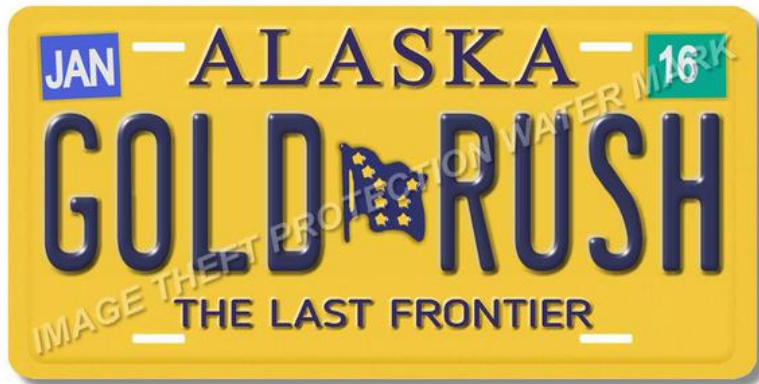
Review: background knowledge



Jack London



California



Klondike Gold Rush



Alaska



The Call of the Wild

Jack London

Chapter 1

Into the Primitive



Review: story map



Shipped to the north
and sold to
Perrault and Francois

Carried off in Seattle
and beaten by
a red sweater man



Lived happily at
Judge Miller's
house in California

Kidnapped by
Manuel and
travelled in boxes





Part 2

Tough Life to the North

Part 1

Happy Life in the South



Read for information: happy life in the South



Pair discussion (p13) :

1. What was the trouble mentioned in the first paragraph?
2. In what aspect was Buck different from the dogs in Judge Miller's place?



Read for information: happy life in the South

www.sunedu.com

1. What was the trouble mentioned in the first paragraph?

Buck did not read the newspapers. So he did not know that there was trouble ahead. Trouble for every dog with strong muscles and warm long hair, from Seattle to southern California. Some men had found a yellow metal in the Arctic darkness, and thousands of other men were rushing there. These men wanted dogs that were heavy, with strong muscles for working hard and furry coats to protect them from the cold.

foreshadowing



Long and long-haired dogs were wanted by the gold prospectors who were rushing to Alaska.



Read for information: happy life in the South

2. In what aspect was Buck different from the dogs in Judge Miller's place?

Buck lived at a big house in a sunny valley in California which was owned by Judge Miller. And Buck ruled over it all. He was born there, and had lived there for the four years of his life. There were many other dogs, but they lived together in the kennels¹, or inside the house. But Buck was neither a house dog nor a kennel dog. The whole of Judge Miller's land was his. Buck was king - king over all the creeping², crawling³, flying things of Judge Miller's lands, humans included.

Buck lived in a spoiled, lordly way. He was chief dog. He was regarded as one of the family member.

personification



Watch the video clip: [happy life in the South](#)

3. What is the function of the detailed description of Buck's comfortable life in Judge Miller's house?

To form a sharp contrast
between two worlds:

Happy Life in the South

sunny
comfortable
spoiled

Tough Life to the North

harsh
difficult
frigid

comparison



Read for information: tough life to the North

www.sunedu.com

Buck did not read the newspapers. So he did not know that there was trouble ahead. Trouble for every dog with strong muscles and warm

When Buck was led out by Manuel, the gardener's helper, who needed money, he thought it was just a normal walk.

echoing

This was Buck in the autumn of 1897, when the discovery of gold in the Klondike brought men from everywhere to the frozen north. But Buck did not read the newspapers. And he did not know that Manuel, one of the gardener's helpers, was not a good man. Manuel gambled¹ and lost the money he had. And one time when the judge was away and his sons were busy with an athletics club, Manuel was able. No one saw him and Buck go off on what Buck thought was a walk. No one saw them arrive at the railway station, where Manuel sold Buck to a man who was waiting for him.

Parallelism



www.sunedu.com

- **Can you find some adjectives describing Buck after he was stolen? (p14-p16)**

Buck passed through many hands in that cage. He travelled by train and ferry boat with other boxes to the railway station, where he was put on an express train. For two days and nights he travelled without food and drink. And all the time Buck grew more and more angry. He was desperate for a drink to ease¹ his swollen² throat and tongue. But he decided that nobody would ever put a rope around his neck again. His anger would be directed against the first person who tried to hurt him. His eyes became red, and he changed into a raging devil. He was so changed that the judge would not have recognised him.





Read for information: tough life to the North

www.sunedu.com



Pair discussion (p16-18)

What happened between Buck and the red sweater man?

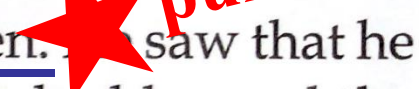
The man in the red sweater used club to hit Buck when Buck fought against him. Buck tried several times before he totally gave in.

Let's watch a [video clip](#) and see how the story goes in the movie.



Read for thinking: tough life to the North

www.sunedu.com

He was beaten¹ (he knew that), but he was not broken.  saw that he stood no chance² against the man with the club. He had learned the lesson, and for the rest of his life he never forgot it. It was his introduction into the world of primitive law. As the days went by, other dogs came in, some quietly and some raging³ and roaring like he had. And one by one he watched them being tamed⁴ by the man in the red sweater. Buck understood that a man with a club was a law-giver, a master to be obeyed, though not necessarily a friend.

How do you understand the sentence “Buck was beaten but he was not broken”?

Outwardly, Buck was now in a **miserable shape**, but **inwardly** he maintained his **firmness and steadiness**.



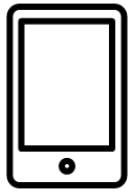
Read for thinking: tough life to the North

www.sunedu.com

He was beaten¹ (he knew that), but he was not broken. He saw that he stood no chance² against the man with the club. He had learned the lesson, and for the rest of his life he never forgot it. It was his introduction into the world of primitive law. As the days went by, other dogs came in, some quietly and some raging³ and roaring like he had. And one by one he watched them being tamed⁴ by the man in the red sweater. Buck understood that a man with a club was a law-giver, a master to be obeyed, though not necessarily a friend.

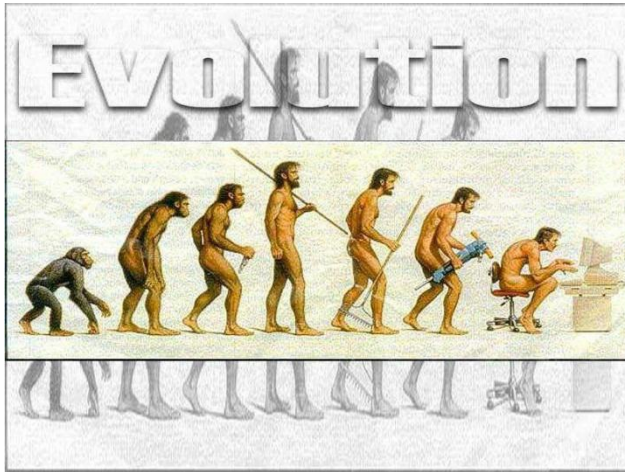
What was the lesson he learned?

The primitive law, or we can say the law of the jungle-survival of the strong and elimination of the weak.



Discussion Forum:

Primitive law, in or out?



**Darwin's theory—
the survival of the fittest.**

**Q1: Do you think this
primitive law still exist in
today's society? Why?**

**Q2: Will you adopt this
primitive law in your
future life? Why?**



*Buck had no choice.
He had to obey “**The
Law of Club and Tooth**”*

.....



Homework:

Please read Chapter 2 and preview the whole story in your reading circle.