

# Jack London

## The Call of the Wild

Buck, a happy, quiet dog living in sunny California, is stolen from his owner and sent north to begin a new hard life as a sled dog during the Klondike Gold Rush. Read about his adventures and the many problems he has to face in this new cruel world. Discover how he begins to change and how he answers to the Call of the Wild.

### In this reader you'll find:

- Focus on: Jack London; Huskies
- CLIL History: the Klondike Gold Rush
- Glossary of difficult words
- Comprehension and grammar activities including B1 Preliminary style exercises and 21st century skills activities
- Final test

### Tags

Adventure | Courage | The Wild

Downloadable  
**Audio  
Files**

Look at the inside front cover flap to find out how to download your free Audio files.

|           |                |                  |    |             |
|-----------|----------------|------------------|----|-------------|
| STAGE 1   | 600 headwords  | Elementary       | A1 | Movers      |
| STAGE 1   | 800 headwords  | Pre-intermediate | A2 | Flyers/Key  |
| ● STAGE 3 | 1000 headwords | Intermediate     | B1 | Preliminary |

Classic - American English

[www.eligradedreaders.com](http://www.eligradedreaders.com)

*Eli Readers is a beautifully illustrated series of timeless classic and original stories for learners of English.*

 The pleasure of Reading

ISBN 978-88-536-3216-6



9 788853 632166

ELT  
B1

Jack London

The Call of the Wild

Stage 3 B1

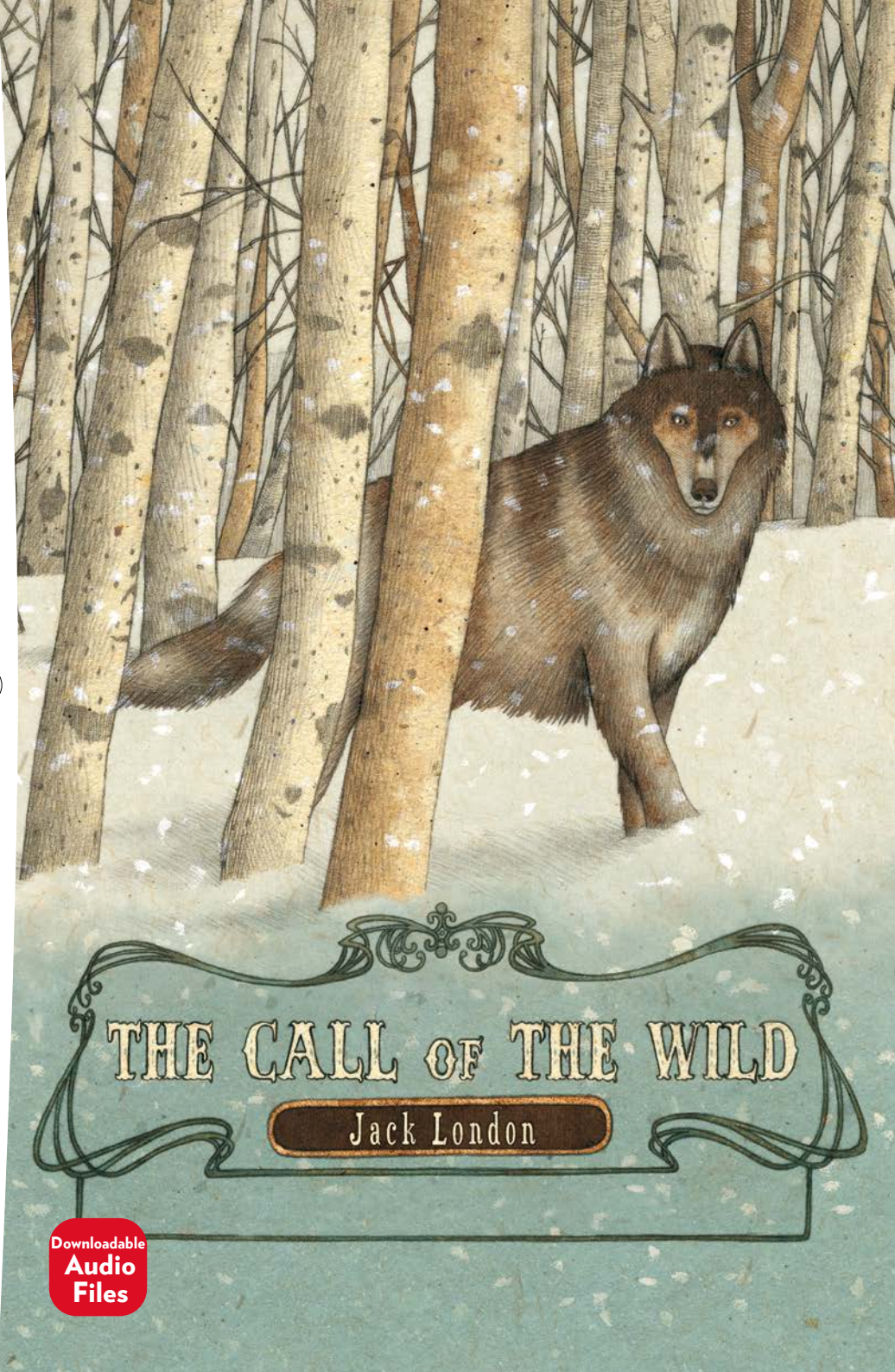
Teen  Readers

Teen



Readers

Classic



Downloadable  
**Audio  
Files**

ELI s.r.l.  
TEEN ELI READERS  
The Call of the Wild  
ISBN 978-88-536-3216-6

# *Book brief*

- 1** *The Call of the Wild* is a short adventure novel by Jack London set in Yukon, Canada, during the Klondike Gold Rush in the 1890s.
- 2** The story follows the adventures of Buck, a dog stolen from his home in California and sold as a sled dog.
- 3** As Buck's life changes from a much-loved pet to a working dog in often very hard conditions, Buck is forced to learn to survive.
- 4** As the story progresses, Buck becomes more attracted to the Call of the Wild.
- 5** Main themes include survival, returning to nature, and loyalty built on trust.

*Jack London*

# The Call of the Wild

*Retold and with activities by*

**Silvana Sardi**

*Illustrated by*

**Marco Somà**

## Contents

|    |                        |                                                               |
|----|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6  | <b>Main Characters</b> |                                                               |
| 8  | <b>Before you read</b> |                                                               |
| 10 | <b>Chapter 1</b>       | <i>Far from Home</i>                                          |
| 18 | <b>Activities</b>      |                                                               |
| 20 | <b>Chapter 2</b>       | <i>A Dog's Life</i>                                           |
| 28 | <b>Activities</b>      |                                                               |
| 30 | <b>Chapter 3</b>       | <i>The Fight</i>                                              |
| 38 | <b>Activities</b>      |                                                               |
| 40 | <b>Chapter 4</b>       | <i>Changing Masters</i>                                       |
| 48 | <b>Activities</b>      |                                                               |
| 50 | <b>Chapter 5</b>       | <i>Love and Respect</i>                                       |
| 58 | <b>Activities</b>      |                                                               |
| 60 | <b>Chapter 6</b>       | <i>Back to the Past</i>                                       |
| 70 | <b>Activities</b>      |                                                               |
| 72 | <b>Focus on...</b>     | <i>Jack London</i>                                            |
| 74 | <b>Focus on...</b>     | <i>Huskies</i>                                                |
| 76 | <b>Focus on...</b>     | <i>CLIL History: Context</i><br><i>The Klondike Gold Rush</i> |
| 78 | <b>Test Yourself</b>   |                                                               |
| 79 | <b>Syllabus</b>        |                                                               |

## Main Characters



**Buck**

*Buck, the much loved pet of Judge Miller and his family.*



**Buck**

*Buck, who follows the call of the wild and joins the wolves.*



**Dave**

*A quiet dog; he helps the other dogs to learn how to pull the sled well.*



**Spitz**

*A big white dog that Buck hates.*



**Sol-leks**

*An old, thin husky with only one eye.*



**François**



**Perrault**

*They deliver letters and parcels for the Canadian government and are good masters.*



**Charles, Mercedes, Hal**

*They don't know anything about camping, the cold or how to look after the dogs.*



**John Thornton**

*He loves his dogs as if they were his children and Buck loves and respects him for this.*

## Vocabulary

1 Look at the picture and complete the words.



- |             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| 1 R_N_E_S   | runners   |
| 2 S__D      | load      |
| 3 _US_Y D_G | harness   |
| 4 _O_D      | husky dog |
| 5 PA_       | paw       |
| 6 _A _ESS   | sled      |

## Reading B1 Preliminary

- 2 Choose the best answer, A, B, C or D to complete the text about the story.

The Call of the Wild is a story about a dog (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Buck. At the beginning of the story, Buck is living (2) \_\_\_\_\_ California with Judge Miller and his family. He has a happy life and (3) \_\_\_\_\_ have to worry about (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Then everything changes and Buck finds himself in the north of Canada and becomes a working dog. Buck has to learn to (5) \_\_\_\_\_ a sled with a team of husky dogs. Life in the cold north is hard and (6) \_\_\_\_\_ different from his old one.

- |   |           |             |              |                 |
|---|-----------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|
|   | A speaks  | B says      | C makes      | <del>D is</del> |
| 1 | A called  | B name      | C which      | D who           |
| 2 | A at      | B in        | C from       | D to            |
| 3 | A don't   | B can't     | C doesn't    | D mustn't       |
| 4 | A nothing | B something | C everything | D anything      |
| 5 | A push    | B keep      | C pull       | D carry         |
| 6 | A much    | B very      | C more       | D too           |

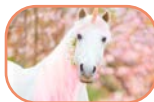
## Speaking and Writing

- 3 A Many countries have a national bird or animal. With your partner, match each animal with the correct country. Go online for help.

- |               |           |                            |
|---------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| a New Zealand | b Ireland | c United States of America |
| d Australia   | e England | f South Africa             |
|               |           | g Scotland                 |



1 c



2 \_\_\_\_\_



3 \_\_\_\_\_



4 \_\_\_\_\_



5 \_\_\_\_\_



6 \_\_\_\_\_



7 \_\_\_\_\_

21st  
Century  
Skills

- 3 B Now talk about the national bird or animal of your country and discuss why you think this animal was chosen.

## Chapter 1

# Far from Home

- ▶ 2 Buck, a big strong dog, lived happily in a beautiful farmhouse with Judge Miller and his family. He lived in the Santa Clara Valley, near San Jose, California. The land was good in this area and famous for its fruit. Buck was a friendly dog and he loved going fishing with Judge Miller's sons. Life was fun, but things were about to change for Buck. The Klondike<sup>1</sup> Gold Rush<sup>2</sup> had started, and Buck would soon be part of it.

Buck lives happily with the Miller family in California and everybody loves him. He doesn't know that his life is about to change because of the Klondike Gold Rush.

All the newspapers were talking about the Gold Rush, but of course Buck couldn't read, so he didn't know anything about it. He wasn't interested in gold anyway!

The Miller family had lots of dogs, but at four years old, Buck was already boss. All the other dogs respected him and every member of the family loved him too. In summer, the Judge's grandchildren rode on his back, while in winter he sat quietly with Judge Miller in the library in front of a warm fire, where he felt safe and loved.



Buck is sitting quietly with Judge Miller in the library in front of a warm fire.

<sup>1</sup>**The Klondike** a region of the Yukon (Canada)

<sup>2</sup>**Gold Rush** a time when lots of people were looking for gold



## Jack London

He often walked with the Judge's daughters, and even swam with the boys in the pool in the garden.

Manuel, the gardener's helper, decides to sell Buck for a few dollars. Gold-seekers in the north need a strong dog like him. Buck knows and trusts Manuel so he doesn't realize what's happening until Manuel gives him to another man who takes Buck on a train to San Francisco.

Buck wasn't fat like some pets: he loved swimming and became stronger every day. Everybody loved Buck. Unfortunately, the gold seekers<sup>1</sup> in the north needed a dog like him. Manuel, the gardener's helper, decided to sell Buck to make a few dollars. So, one evening, he took Buck for a walk when nobody was looking. Buck knew Manuel well and was happy to go with him. They went to the train station, where another man was waiting to give Manuel the money for Buck. The stranger put a rope<sup>2</sup> round Buck's neck and pulled it tight. Then the man put Buck on a train. The dog was very angry and bit the man's hand, but it was no use, he couldn't escape.

They reached San Francisco where the man gave Buck to another stranger. By now, Buck was very thirsty and hungry. He was even too tired to fight when they cut off his collar and threw him

<sup>1</sup> a gold seeker a person looking for gold

<sup>2</sup> a rope a piece of very thick string



## The Call of the Wild

into a wooden crate<sup>1</sup>. He couldn't understand what was happening. *Why are they doing this to me?* he thought.

During the night, the man came to see Buck. Buck thought it was the judge, but barked<sup>2</sup> angrily when he realized it was the stranger. *Where is my master*<sup>3</sup>? he thought sadly.

Next morning, four men came for the dog. They looked dangerous and Buck barked at them from inside the crate. They just laughed at him and put the crate on another train.

Buck now began a long journey which took him far from the peace and quiet of his home and the people who loved him. From the train, they moved him to a truck, then a boat, then finally a train once more. All this time, nobody gave Buck even a drink of water and he was weak and frightened.

Two days and nights passed, and Buck lay in the crate barking when anyone came near him. He was really thirsty now, and he was furious<sup>4</sup> with these men who were taking him away from

In San Francisco, they put Buck in a wooden crate and put him on another train, then a truck, then a boat and finally a train once more. In these two days and nights nobody gives Buck anything to eat or drink. He's dirty, his eyes are red, he's angry and frightened.

<sup>1</sup> **a crate** a wooden box (see picture on p. 15)

<sup>2</sup> **to bark** to make the loud sound a dog makes

<sup>3</sup> **master** (here) a dog's owner

<sup>4</sup> **furious** very, very angry

## Jack London

everything he knew and loved. His eyes were red, he was dirty and angry, and he didn't look like the Buck Judge Miller knew. He couldn't wait to get out of the crate to try and bite these men. He no longer had the rope around his neck, but his throat hurt.

In Seattle, a man with a red sweater breaks the crate open. Buck is now like a wild animal and tries to attack the man, but the man hits Buck with a club again and again until the dog gives up.

At last they reached Seattle, and the four men carried the crate into a small back yard<sup>1</sup> with high walls. Then, a man with a red sweater came into the back yard. He was carrying a hatchet<sup>2</sup> in one hand and a club<sup>3</sup> in the other. Buck knew he was in danger. The man hit the wooden crate with the hatchet to open it, and inside Buck pushed angrily against the breaking wood. He wanted out. He was like a wild animal, ready to attack.

"Come on then, red eyes," said the man, as he hit the crate once more and broke it open.

Buck jumped at him with a mad look in his eyes. The man hit Buck hard with the club and the dog fell to the ground. Buck tried again, but it was no use. Each time, the man in the red sweater hit him with the club. The man continued to hit



Buck is now in Seattle. The men have put his wooden crate in a small back yard. Buck can't wait to get out of the crate to bite these men who have taken him away from his home.

<sup>1</sup> a **back yard** an area behind a building (see picture on p. 15)

<sup>2</sup> a **hatchet** a tool for cutting wood (see picture on p. 15) 

<sup>3</sup> a **club** a big heavy stick



## Jack London

Buck until the dog lay on the ground. When Buck looked up, the man was standing over him.

“Well, Buck”, he said, “now you know who’s boss. Be a good dog and you won’t have any problems.”

Then the man gave the dog some food and water. Buck had to accept<sup>1</sup> that he couldn’t fight against a club and a hatchet. He realized that now. This was the first lesson he learned in this new world.

Every day, new dogs arrived, and the man in the red sweater was ready for them with his club. Sometimes men came, gave the man some money and took a dog away.

*I wonder where they’re going?*<sup>2</sup> thought Buck.

Then, one day, a little man who spoke French came and chose Buck. The man was Perrault and he delivered<sup>3</sup> letters and parcels<sup>3</sup> for the Canadian government<sup>4</sup>. He needed a strong dog to pull the mail sled<sup>5</sup> and Buck was perfect for the job. The man also bought another dog called Curly. He

<sup>1</sup> **to accept** to take something that is offered to you

<sup>2</sup> **to deliver** to take from one place to another

<sup>3</sup> **parcel** 

<sup>4</sup> **government** a group of people who control a country

<sup>5</sup> **sled** the dogs are pulling one in the picture on p. 23

The man in the red sweater sells Buck and another dog called Curly to Perrault who needs them to pull the mail sled. He takes the two dogs on a ship where there’s his friend François and another two dogs, Spitz and Dave. Buck thinks François is a good master because he punishes Spitz when the dog tries to steal Buck’s dinner.

## The Call of the Wild

took the two dogs to the ship, where his friend François was waiting. There were another two dogs there, and they left for the cold north. The other dogs were called Spitz and Dave. Spitz was a big white dog who tried to steal Buck's dinner the first night. François punished Spitz, so Buck decided that this new master was a good man. The other dog, Dave, was very quiet and wasn't interested in Buck and Curly.

As they went north, it got colder and colder. Then, early one morning, they arrived at Dyea beach, near Skaguay, in Alaska. This was where a lot of gold seekers began their journey to the goldfields around Dawson in the Yukon, Canada. ■

**It gets colder and colder as they go north until they arrive at Dyea beach near Skaguay in Alaska, where a lot of gold-seekers start their journey to the goldfields.**

### Think

**Do you think Buck will be happy with Perrault and François? Why? / Why not?**

## Reading Comprehension

### 1 Match each description with the right person.

- |                                                                                 |                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> e He had a farmhouse in California.       | a The stranger                                     |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> He sold Buck for a few dollars.                      | b Manuel                                           |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Buck bit his hand.                                   | c François                                         |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> He hit Buck with a club.                             | d Perrault                                         |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> He took Buck to the ship.                            | e <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judge Miller |
| 6 <input type="checkbox"/> He punished Spitz for trying to steal Buck's dinner. | f The man in the red sweater                       |

## Grammar

### 2 Underline the correct alternative.

- Buck loved fishing / fish with Judge Miller's boys.
- 1 Buck couldn't read / to read about the gold rush.
  - 2 Manuel wanted sell / to sell Buck.
  - 3 Buck liked swimming / swim in the pool.
  - 4 Buck hated being / be in the crate.
  - 5 The man in the red sweater decided to give / giving Buck some food.
  - 6 Buck learned be / to be a good dog.

## Vocabulary

### 3 Circle the odd word out.

- |           |          |              |         |
|-----------|----------|--------------|---------|
| loved     | enjoyed  | <u>hated</u> | liked   |
| 1 happy   | furious  | angry        | worried |
| 2 thirsty | friendly | hungry       | tired   |
| 3 car     | truck    | bus          | boat    |
| 4 warm    | strong   | hot          | cold    |

## Speaking

21st  
Century  
Skills

- 4 At the start of the story, Buck is a pet loved by all of Judge Miller's family. Look at the pictures below with a partner and talk about the advantages and disadvantages of having these animals as pets.



1 \_\_\_\_\_



2 \_\_\_\_\_



3 \_\_\_\_\_



4 \_\_\_\_\_



5 \_\_\_\_\_



6 \_\_\_\_\_

### Before-reading Activity

## Listening BI Preliminary

- 3 5 Listen to the start of Chapter 2 and complete the text with one word in each space.

Buck was glad when he finally got off the ship. It had never (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in the Santa Clara Valley so Buck was really surprised when he saw how white and bright everything was. There were also other (2) \_\_\_\_\_ and their dogs, but they weren't very friendly. The dogs showed their (3) \_\_\_\_\_ as soon as Buck went near them. They were ready for a (4) \_\_\_\_\_ anytime. Poor Curly was attacked and (5) \_\_\_\_\_ by a big husky and Buck was shocked and angry. Instead, Spitz (6) \_\_\_\_\_ and Buck hated him from that moment.