

CALL OF THE WILD

Jack London

LEVEL 2



WORDS USED

Story 21

Story 22

Story 23

Story 24

Story 25

KEY WORDS

quick
race
rode
sled
start
station

quiet
ring
sell
skate
suppose
teach

afternoon
between
careful
eight
kick
magic

asleep
begin
camp
flag
kept
mail

print
radio
Saturday
straight
use
you'll

Buck



Buck went along with the gardener's helper on what he thought was just a walk in the woods.

Preview:

1. Read the name of the story.
2. Look at the picture.
3. Read the sentence under the picture.
4. Read the first two paragraphs of the story.
5. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that

- a. Buck knew a lot about the world.
- b. Buck did not like walking with the gardener's helper.
- c. Buck wanted to go to a cold land.
- d. Buck was the kind of dog some men were looking for.

Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 9 for the right answer.

Now read the story.

Read to find out where the gardener's helper is taking Buck.

Buck

Buck did not know much about the world. He didn't know that far away, in a cold land, men had found gold. There was so much snow in this land that men needed sleds to get from place to place. And they needed strong dogs to pull their sleds. Many men were looking for big, strong dogs with warm coats, like Buck. But Buck had no way to know that.

When Judge Miller rode his horse, Buck was there to race at his side. When Mrs. Miller went walking, Buck went with her. And when the Judge's sons took their morning swim, Buck joined them in the pool.

The people in Buck's life had been good to him. He did not know that some people could be bad. So one night, Buck went right along with the gardener's helper on what he thought was just a walk.

The train station was not far away. Buck had been there before. At the station, the gardener's helper met another man. This man gave the helper some money. He spoke in an angry way. The gardener's helper was quick to take the money and tie a rope around Buck's neck. Buck did not like any of it, but he was quiet.

Now Buck had always believed that the men he knew

were smarter than he. But when the helper gave the other end of the rope to the angry man, Buck growled. The man pulled the rope very tight. Then he threw Buck into a train car. Buck heard the train start. He knew he was going away, but he didn't know where or why.

All night Buck rode on the train. At the next station some men came with a cage. Buck tried to run, but they were too quick for him. Into the cage he went.

A cage was a terrible place for a dog who had always run where he wanted. As the trip went on, Buck grew more and more angry. They took him by wagon, by truck, by boat, and then by train again. For two days and nights Buck had nothing to eat.

At last the trip was over. A big man in a red sweater opened the cage. By this time, Buck was so angry he raced out and jumped at the man. But the man had a surprise for Buck. In his hand was a stick. And that stick came down hard on Buck's nose.

Again Buck tried to bite the man. Again the stick knocked him down. Buck found out that because of the stick, he had to do what this man wanted. But he didn't have to

like it!

Soon a little man named Perrault came looking for dogs to pull his sled. When he saw Buck, he smiled. This time Buck went on a boat with Perrault. He was on his way to start a new life.

Buck

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Choose the best answer.

1. Buck is
 a. the gardener's helper.
 b. Perrault's nickname.
 c. a big, strong dog.
 d. a fast race horse.
2. Buck
 a. ran away from home.
 b. cared only about himself.
 c. wanted to live and work in the cold land.
 d. was very happy with his life at the Miller's.
3. The dog went along with the gardener's helper because
 a. he believed that all men were good.
 b. he did not want to start trouble.
 c. he wanted to play a game.
 d. he liked going to the train station.
4. The gardener's helper
 a. gave Buck away.
 b. loved Buck.
 c. sold Buck.
 d. took Buck home.
5. After the angry man took Buck, he
 a. threw Buck into a train car.
 b. put Buck in a cage with other dogs.
 c. hit Buck on the nose with a stick.
 d. fed Buck different meats.
6. Buck's trip lasted
 a. a few hours.
 b. many days.
 c. less than a day.
 d. only one night.
7. The man with the red sweater
 a. was the kind of person Buck knew well.
 b. would come to be Buck's friend.
 c. hurt Buck, but could not break his spirit.
 d. was sorry for what he did to Buck.
8. Perrault wanted Buck
 a. to help pull his sled.
 b. to watch over his house.
 c. to play with his children.
 d. to pull a wagon.
9. Another name for this story could be
 a. "The Gardener and His Helper."
 b. "A Change for Buck."
 c. "The Miller's Place."
 d. "Running in the Woods."
10. This story is mainly about
 a. life in a cold, faraway place.
 b. getting used to trains.
 c. different kinds of people.
 d. a dog who is taken from his home.

Preview answer:

- d. Buck was the kind of dog some men were looking for.

Check your answers with the key on page 56.