

SCHOLASTIC CLASSICS

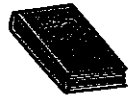
The Call of the Wild



Jack London

With an introduction by Avi

 SCHOLASTIC



IDEA OSEP Grant H324M030003
Book Adapted by

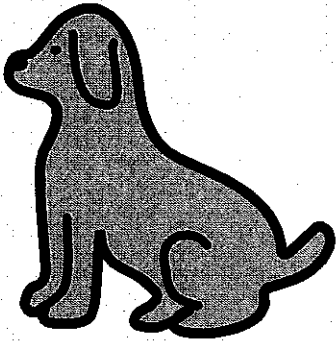


Reading,
General Curriculum Access Projects Research Staff

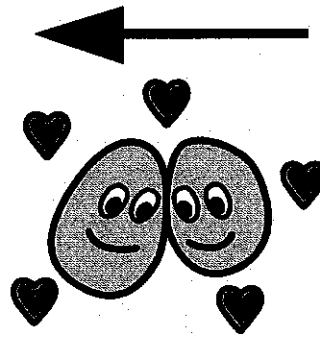


University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Chapter 1 Vocabulary



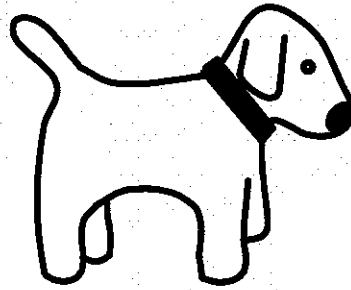
Buck



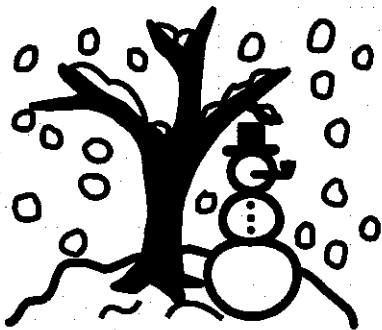
loved



home



Curly

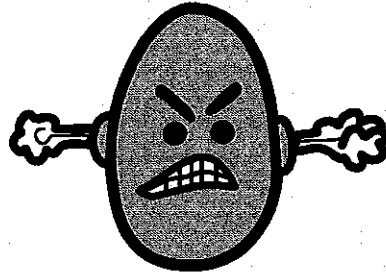


snow

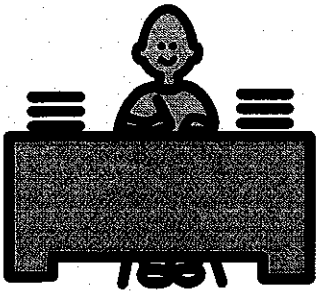
Chapter 2 Vocabulary



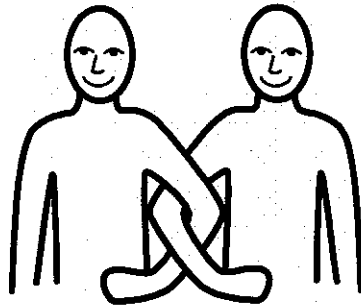
primitive



mad

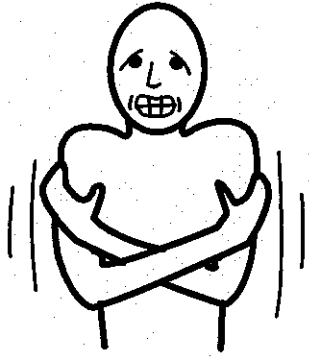


work

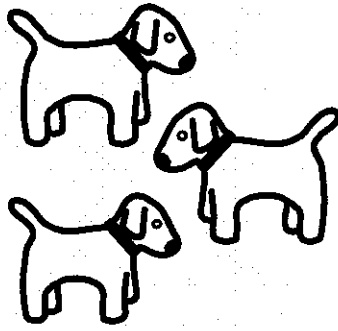


friend

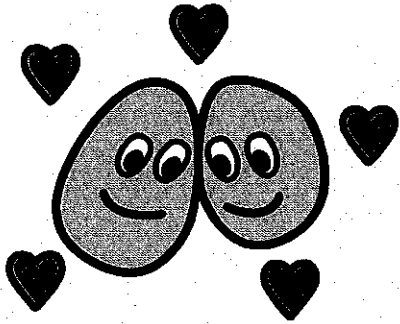
Chapter 3 Vocabulary



cold

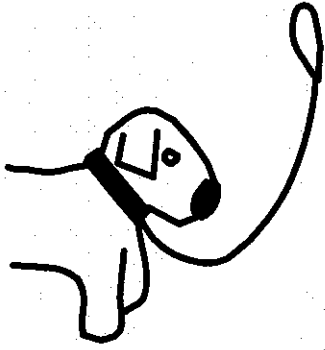


dogs

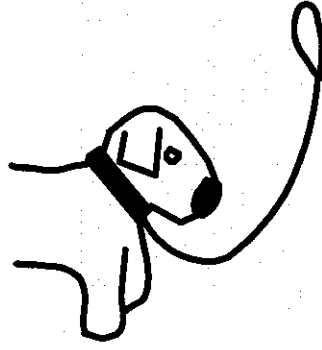


care

Chapter 4 Vocabulary



lead

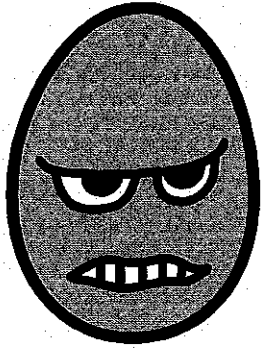


leader

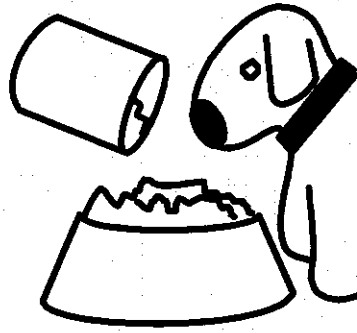


wild

Chapter 5 Vocabulary



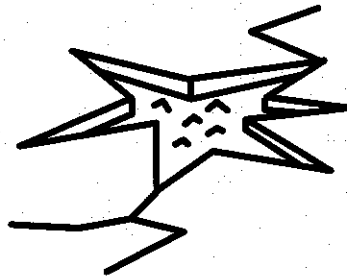
mean



feed

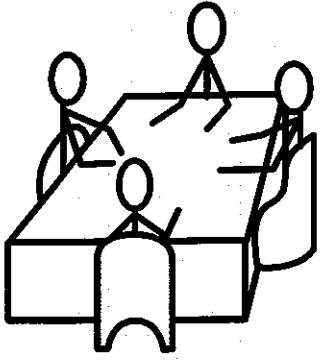


sick

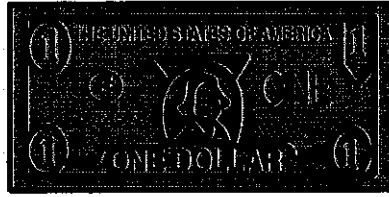


ice

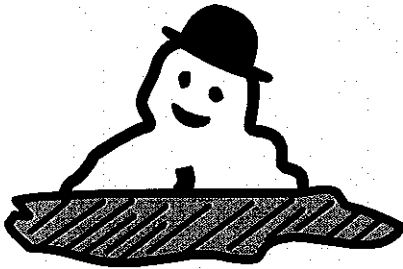
Chapter 6 Vocabulary



meeting

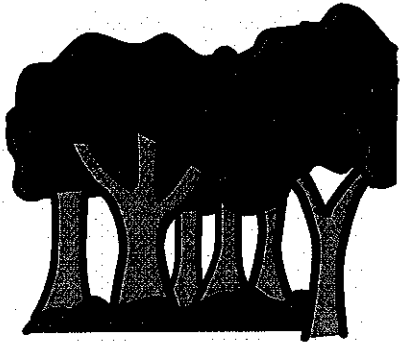


dollars

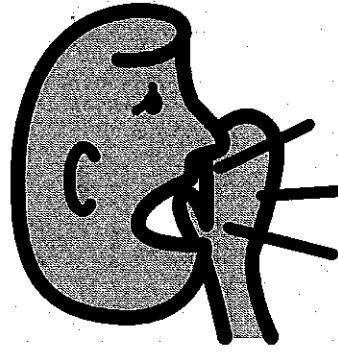


melt

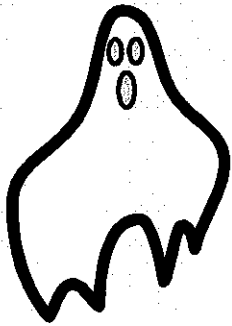
Chapter 7 Vocabulary



woods



call



ghost



haunted

Chapter 1



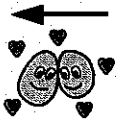
Buck is a large dog who is part St. Bernard and part



sheep dog. He lives in a large home and is owned by the



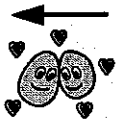
wealthy Judge Miller. Buck is the master of his home and is



loved by everyone. Buck is confident that he is the boss



of his home.



Buck loved his home.



One day Manuel, an unkind gardener at the home, decides to



steal Buck and sell him for money. Manuel took Buck to a



flag station where he sells Buck to a stranger. The stranger



ties a rope around Buck's neck and tightens it. Buck attacks



the stranger, but cannot break free. Buck loses strength and



blacks out. Buck is in a strange place. **Buck loved his**



home.



Buck is thrown into the baggage car of a train. He hears the

whistle of the train and opens his eyes. He sees the stranger



reaching for him. He bites the stranger's hand. Buck is then

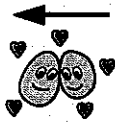
thrown down, choked, and locked into a cage. He stays there



overnight. In the morning, Buck's cage is passed from car to



car for the next two days. Buck was hungry and thirsty.



Buck loved his home.



On the third day, Buck's cage is lifted into a small yard with



high walls. A large man signs for him. Buck lunges at him

inside the cage. The man brings out a hatchet and a club.



Buck growls and leaps at the man, but the man hits him



with the club. Buck finds that he does not stand a chance



against the man. Buck misses the Judge. **Buck loved his**



home.



Chapter 2



Buck knows that he has been taken from his home. Now he is



in a wild, primitive place. The dogs and men around him are mean



and violent. Buck is surprised to see the dogs fighting. Buck's



friend, Curly tries to make friends with a husky, but the husky



attacks her. Curly stumbles to the ground. Forty other dogs rush in,



trampling her. Curly is dead on the ground. Buck knows he



must fight to survive. **Buck is mad at Spitz.**



Francois fastens Buck into a harness and puts him to work hauling



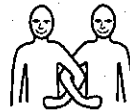
a sled. It is hard work for Buck. He tries his best. Buck

responds to Francois's whip and follows the more experienced dogs. Spitz



is the team's lead dog. He carves a path through the snow. Buck

learns quickly and makes good progress. He learns to stop at "ho" and



how to go at "mush." Buck misses his friend.



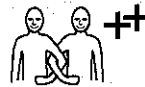
Buck is mad at Spitz.

In the afternoon, Perrault brings back two more dogs, Billee and Joe. They are brothers. Billee is friendly and kind, while Joe is mean. Both of them are confronted by Spitz. The friendly dog, Billee, is afraid. Joe snaps back until Spitz leaves him alone. By evening another dog, Sol-leks, joins them.



He is an old husky with one eye. Buck accidentally approaches Sol-leks

from his blind side and gets his shoulder slashed. He does not make that



mistake again. Buck and Sol-leks become friends.



Buck is mad at Spitz.



That night, Buck cannot find a place to sleep. He tries to enter the



men's tent but is chased away. He tries to sleep in the snow but



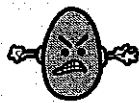
finds it too cold. He wanders in and out of tents, but every place is

colder than the last. He feels something wriggling beneath his feet. He



sees Billee lying in a snug ball, buried warmly under a layer of snow.

He digs a hole for himself and falls asleep. Buck is not happy.



Buck is mad at Spitz.

The next day, three more dogs are added to the team. Now, there are



nine dogs. Buck does not mind the work, but he is shocked that the

other dogs enjoy it. He is put between Dave and Sol-leks to learn from

them. Francois and Perrault are mail carriers for the government. They leave

the coast and set out for the town of Dawson. The team moves fast.

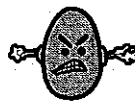


Buck is always hungry and learns to eat fast. By watching the other

dogs, he also learns to steal. Wild urges and instincts begin to appear in



Buck.



Buck is mad at Spitz.

Chapter 3



Buck turns to his wild instincts more and more as he struggles to

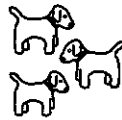


survive in the cold. He tries to avoid fights, but Spitz makes him



mad one night. Spitz steals his sleeping spot under the shelter of a

rock. He jumps on Spitz, preparing to fight. Just then, they hear Perrault



shouting and see almost a hundred wild dogs charging into the camp.



Buck helps the sled team get away.



Buck takes care of the other dogs.



The wild dogs are so thin that you can see every bone through their skin. They



are mad with hunger. Buck is attacked by three of them at once. Both his



head and shoulders are slashed. Even as he is fighting the wild dogs, Spitz



continues to nip at him. The sled dogs run out onto the frozen lake to get away.



They are all badly hurt. The next morning, Buck helps the sled dogs make

their way back to camp. All of their food had been taken. Francois worries that the



bites may make the sled dogs sick. **Buck takes care of the other dogs.**



Four hundred miles of difficult trail remain. At times the dogs face great

risks. Many of them fall through ice and almost freeze to death or drown.

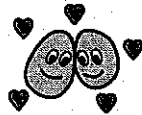


Buck helps them stay alive. One morning, Spitz attacks Buck.

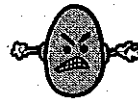


Francois beats Spitz with his whip. From then on, Buck and Spitz

remain rivals. A fight to the death would settle it once and for all.



Buck takes care of the other dogs.



The dog team keeps moving. Buck is still mad at Spitz. One night the team



spots a rabbit, and the dogs try to catch it. Buck leads the pack, but



Spitz is sneaky and leaves the team to catch the rabbit first! Buck wants to

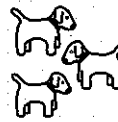
help the team catch the rabbit. Then, he sees Spitz. Spitz wants the rabbit for



himself. Buck wants to share the rabbit with the other dogs. Buck and Spitz



begin to fight. Buck kills Spitz.



Buck takes care of the other dogs.

Chapter 4



When it is time to get back in the harnesses, Buck walks over to Spitz's place.



Francois does not notice him and harnesses Sol-leks to the lead position. Buck

jumps at Sol-leks, but Francois drags him away. Sol-leks shows that he is afraid of



Buck and wants to give him the lead position, but Francois comes back with the



club. Perrault tells Francois to throw down his club. Then, Buck trots to the lead



position and is harnessed in. With Buck as their leader, the sled team gets to

Dawson quickly.



Buck is a good leader.

Perrault and Francois soon receive orders that take them elsewhere, and



they exit from Buck's life. The team then travels back to Dawson under

the command of a man from Scotland carrying a heavy load of mail to

the gold miners in the North. The heavy load slows their speed, and life



becomes harder for Buck. He thinks about his old life at home, but he



is not homesick. His wild instincts are growing stronger. Everything he



sees and hears in the wild seems strangely familiar. He keeps the



sled team moving. **Buck is a good leader.**



The dogs are tired when they reach Dawson, but they are allowed little



rest. They are treated well. One of the dogs, Dave, is suffering from a

strange illness. The men decide he is too weak to pull the sled and try

to pull him out of his position, but he protests until they put him back

into place. They realize that he wants to die working. The next day, he

is too weak to travel. He tries to crawl into his position but falls down.



Buck and the sled team must go on without him.



Buck is a good leader.

Chapter 5



After 4 weeks, the dogs and men came back to Skaguay. They were very tired. The drivers thought they were going to have to stay in town for a



long time, but they are told to carry more mail right away. New dogs have



started to work now. Buck and the other dogs are sold to two men. Their

names are Hal and Charles. Hal and Charles are not as good as the first

drivers. Hal carries a knife and a gun. These men are not used to the very



cold town.

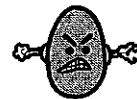


Hal and Charles are mean .

They load up the sled together with Charles's wife, Mercedes. She likes to have her way all of the time. Their sled was loaded with many things from her house such as too many pots, pans and fancy clothes. The sled



was much too heavy to be pulled by the tired dogs. When the sled got



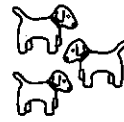
to a hill, most of the load fell off. Buck was mad but kept

running. Hal and Charles threw away lots of Mercedes' nice things, but the

sled was still too heavy.



Hal and Charles are mean .19



The men bought six more dogs. These dogs were not used to the



snow. Some of the dogs died because they were tired, cold, and



hungry. Hal and Charles did not feed them the right way. At first,

they gave them too much food. Then, when they began to run out of food,



they fed them too little food. Hal, Charles and Mercedes were always



fighting. Buck knew that lots of things were not OK with this trip.



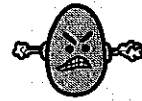
Hal and Charles are mean .



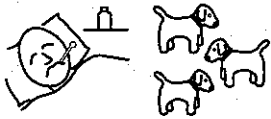
The sled stopped at a place called Five Fingers. The dogs had to eat



bad food instead of good dog food. This made some of the dogs



sick and some of them even died. The men got mad at the tired



and sick dogs when they would not get up to pull the heavy sled.



They beat the dogs with whips. They hit the dogs with clubs to make



them work.



Hal and Charles are mean.

Some months went by. The winter was ending and spring was beginning.



The warmer weather began to make the snow and ice melt. A

smart man named John Thornton tried to tell Hal, Charles, and Mercedes



not to take the sled on the ice, because they might fall through.



Hal and Charles are mean.



Hal wants to take the sled anyway. He begins to beat and whip Buck



really hard, but Buck cannot get up. Buck feels sick. Buck feels that



something very bad will happen. Buck does not get up even after he is



beaten. John Thornton yells and makes Hal stop hurting Buck. John takes



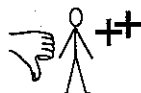
Hal's knife and cuts the straps off Buck. Buck and John watch as the sled



pulls out over the ice. They hear Mercedes scream. Then, they see the



sled, the dogs, Mercedes, Hal, and Charles all drop into the icy water.



Hal and Charles were very mean men.

Chapter 6



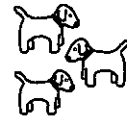
Buck slowly gets his strength back. John Thornton was sick last year



so he knows how Buck feels. Now, he and his dogs are waiting for



the river to melt. When the river melts they will take a raft to



Dawson. John is the best master yet. John treats his dogs as if they



were his children. Buck is kind to him and obeys his commands.



Buck loves John Thornton.



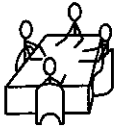
Even though Buck is happy with Thornton, he is still wild and

continues to fight. Now, he fights to defend John. In Dawson, John tries



to stop a fight, and a man lashes out at him. Buck jumps at the

man's throat and bites him. The man barely escapes. The town has a



meeting to decide what to do with Buck. The men rule that Buck's



mean behavior was acceptable, because he defended John. Buck earns

a reputation for his loyalty.



Buck loves John Thornton.



Buck saves John's life again when he is thrown out of his boat.



Buck swims to the rock where John clings for his life. The other men



attach a rope to Buck's neck and shoulders. After a few attempts, John

grabs onto his neck, and the two are pulled back to safety.



Buck loves John Thornton.

John Thornton pays off his debts with money he earns from the bet. He

sets off to find a gold mine that is going to make him rich. John and



Buck, with the other dogs, wander into the woods. They hunt and fish

and live off the land. They find a place in a valley full of gold. The men



earn thousands of dollars, but the dogs have no work to do.



Buck begins to feel wild. One night he hears a call from the



woods. He springs up from sleep and dashes through the woods. He



sees a timber wolf. Buck and the wolf become friends.



Buck is wild.



The wolf leads Buck away from the woods. They stop to drink, and



Buck remembers John Thornton. Buck starts back toward the camp.



When he arrives, John is eating, and Buck showers him with love. For



two days, he doesn't allow John out of his sight. Then, Buck hears the



call of the wild. It is louder than ever. He begins to stay away

from the camp for days at a time. He hunts his own food.



Buck is wild.

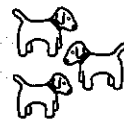


Buck feels like two dogs now. One is a sled dog, another is a



wild hunter. He kills a bear and fishes in the river. Buck hunts

moose and bulls. Then he returns to the camp. On the way, he feels



strange. His feeling is correct when he finds two of John's dogs dying

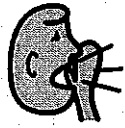
on the trail. He sees that John has been attacked. John is dead.



Buck is wild.



Buck is sad that his master is dead. From now on, he will not fear



men. He hears the call of the wild again. He goes off to follow



it. He finds the pack of wolves. Buck approaches them as a friend.



Buck joins the wolf pack, and the Indians notice a difference in the

timber wolves as years pass.



Buck is wild.



The Indians also tell of a Ghost Dog that runs at the front of the



pack, singing songs and leaping above his friends. They tell of a haunted



valley. This is where John Thornton lies dead. Every year, Buck comes



and grieves for John. Then, Buck runs away to rejoin the pack.



Buck is wild.