

SHORT ANSWER STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS - *The Call of the Wild*

Part I

1. Where did Buck live? What was his life like there?
2. What events were taking place elsewhere which would affect Buck's life?
3. Who was Manuel?
4. What did Manuel do to Buck?
5. Identify "the man in the red sweater."

Part II

1. What happened to Curly?
2. What did Buck learn from seeing Curly so swiftly killed?
3. What did "ho" and "mush" mean?
4. Identify Spitz.
5. How did the dogs sleep at night?
6. How did Perrault honor Buck?
7. How has Buck changed in Part II as compared to the way he was at the beginning of the story in Part I?
8. What did the dog-driver do for Buck?

Part III

1. Why did Buck and Spitz first fight?
2. What unexpected incident kept Buck and Spitz from finishing their first fight?
3. What happened to the team after Buck "stood up" to Spitz?
4. What caused the final battle between Buck and Spitz?
5. What was the outcome of the final battle between Spitz and Buck?

Part IV

1. How did Buck become lead dog?
2. Was Buck a good lead dog?
3. Why did Francois and Perrault give up the team of dogs?
4. In what condition were the dogs when they pulled into Dawson?

Part V

1. Identify Charles and Hal.
2. Who was Mercedes?
3. Why couldn't the dogs move the sled?
4. Describe Hal, Charles and Mercedes.
5. What happened to all but the five experienced dogs?
6. How did Buck meet John Thornton?
7. What happened to Charles, Hal, Mercedes, and the sled team?

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Part VI

1. Identify Skeet and Nig.
2. How was Buck's life with John Thornton different from his life with his other masters?
3. How did Buck react to Hans and Pete?
4. Why did Buck attack "Black" Burton?
5. How did Buck save John Thornton?
6. What extraordinary feat did Buck do out of love for John?

Part VII

1. How much money did John Thornton win on his bet, and what did he do with it?
2. To where do Buck and John travel?
3. How does Buck respond to his trip into the wilderness?
4. How did Buck kill the moose?
5. What happened to John Thornton?
6. What did Buck do to the Indians who killed his master?
7. With his master slain and all ties to mankind broken, what does Buck do?

VOCABULARY - *The Call of the Wild*

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues - Part I

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. But Buck was neither house-dog nor kennel dog. The whole realm was his.

2. Among the terriers he stalked imperiously, and Toots and Ysabel he utterly ignored, for he was king-

3. In quick rage he sprang at the man, who met him halfway, grappled him close by the throat, and with a deft twist threw him over on his back.

4. ...his tongue lolling out of his mouth and his great chest panting futilely.

5. They only laughed and poked sticks at him, which he promptly assailed with his teeth.

6. In his anger he had met the first advances of the express messengers with growls, and they had retaliated by teasing him.

7. The club was a revelation. It was his introduction to the reign of primitive law.

8. Perrault was a French-Canadian, and swarthy, but Francois was a French-Canadian half breed, and twice as swarthy.

Vocabulary - *The Call of the Wild* Part I Continued

Part II: Determining the Meaning - Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions. If there are words for which you cannot figure out the definition by contextual clues and by process of elimination, look them up in a dictionary.

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|--------------------|------------------------------|
| ___ 1. realm | A. attacked, assaulted |
| ___ 2. imperiously | B. dark complexion |
| ___ 3. deft | C. to take revenge, reprisal |
| ___ 4. futilely | D. astonishing disclosure |
| ___ 5. assailed | E. a region |
| ___ 6. retaliated | F. apt, clever |
| ___ 7. revelation | G. domineering, arrogant |
| ___ 8. swarthy | H. serving no useful purpose |

Vocabulary - *The Call of the Wild* Parts II - IV

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words above appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. He had been suddenly jerked from the heart of civilization and flung into the heart of things primordial.

2. It is true, it was a vicarious experience, else he would not have lived to profit by it.

3. Billie wagged his tail appeasingly, turned to run when he saw that appeasement was of no avail.

4. The day had been long and arduous, and he slept soundly and comfortably.

5. His most conspicuous trait was an ability to scent the wind and forecast it ... in advance.

6. Its wild water defied the frost.

7. Nothing daunted him. It was because nothing daunted him that he had been chosen for government courier.

8. With the covert mutiny of Buck, a general insubordination sprang up and increased.

9. Then three or four Western bad men aspired to clean out the town.

10. With the last remnant of his strength he managed to stagger along behind till the train made another stop.

Vocabulary - *The Call of the Wild* Parts II - IV Continued

Part II: Determining the Meaning - Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

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| ___ 9. primordial | A. difficult, laborious |
| ___ 10. vicarious | B. a scrap, fragment, remaining |
| ___ 11. appease | C. to aim at high things |
| ___ 12. arduous | D. original, earliest formed |
| ___ 13. conspicuous | E. secret, private |
| ___ 14. defied | F. challenged, provoked to combat |
| ___ 15. daunted | G. experienced through someone else |
| ___ 16. covert | H. clearly in view, distinguishable |
| ___ 17. aspired | I. to pacify, to tranquilize |
| ___ 18. remnant | J. discouraged, intimidated |

Vocabulary - *The Call of the Wild* Parts V - VI

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words above appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. It advertised his callowness - a callowness sheer and unutterable.

2. Buck watched them apprehensively as they proceeded to take down the tent.

3. Mercedes looked at them imploringly, untold repugnance at sight of pain written in her pretty face.

4. Mercedes looked at them imploringly, untold repugnance at sight of pain written in her pretty face.

5. The outfit, though cut in half, was still a formidable bulk.

6. The Outside dogs, whose digestion had not been trained by chronic famine to make the most of little, had voracious appetites.

7. Mercedes, who disburdened herself of copious opinions upon that topic.

8. She wept and importuned Heaven with a recital of their brutality.

Vocabulary - *The Call of the Wild* Parts V - VI Continued

Part II: Determining the Meaning

Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions. If there are words for which you cannot figure out the definition by contextual clues and by process of elimination, look them up in a dictionary.

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|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ___ 19. callowness | A. difficult to deal with |
| ___ 20. apprehensively | B. ravenous |
| ___ 21. imploringly | C. aversion, dislike, reluctance |
| ___ 22. repugnance | D. beseech, pray for earnestly |
| ___ 23. formidable | E. to urge repeatedly |
| ___ 24. voracious | F. fearfully, suspiciously |
| ___ 25. copious | G. immature, unsophisticated |
| ___ 26. importuned | H. abundant |

Vocabulary - *The Call of the Wild* Part VII

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words above appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. His transient masters since he had come into the Northland had bred in him a fear that no master could be permanent.

2. A "miner's meeting" called on the spot, decided that the dog had sufficient provocation and Buck was discharged.

3. ...being careful that it should neither strangle him nor impede his swimming...

4. Buck performed another exploit not so heroic, perhaps, but one that put his name many notches higher on the totem-pole of Alaskan fame.

5. Sometimes he pursued the call into the forest, looking for it as though it were a tangible thing.

6. Even so, it was a hard fight, and it aroused the last latent remnants of Buck's ferocity.

Part II: Determining the Meaning

Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions. If there are words for which you cannot figure out the definition by contextual clues and by process of elimination, look them up in a dictionary.

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| ___ 27. transient | A. heroic act, deed of renown |
| ___ 28. provocation | B. something that can be touched, actual |
| ___ 29. impede | C. under the surface, hidden |
| ___ 30. exploit | D. fleeting, momentary |
| ___ 31. tangible | E. something that stimulates angers |
| ___ 32. latent | F. to hamper, to obstruct |