

Incoming Eighth Grade Summer Reading

Welcome to Eighth Grade at Grace!

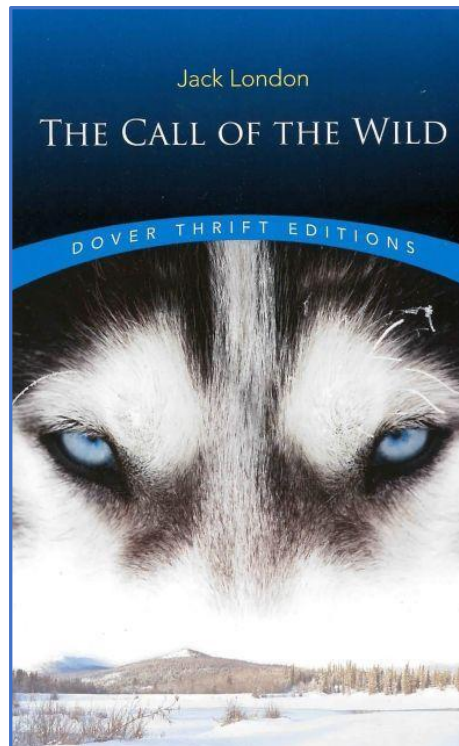
This year, incoming eighth graders are to read *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London. Complete the attached assignment about the book and bring it with you on the first day of school. The book may be found at your library or bookstore, or free online at among others.

If you need another copy of the assignment you can find it at: www.jhwolfanger.com

If you are participating in the summer reading challenge, you may certainly include this book towards your goal, but even if you do not participate in the reading challenge, this is a mandatory assignment for eighth grade English class and will receive a grade.

I look forward to working with you next year.

Ms. Wolfanger



The Call of the Wild

By Jack London



Summer Reading

Write the **letter** of the correct answer in the blank before each question.

- _____ 1. The event that began the trouble for Buck and other dogs like him was (A) the offer of free land in the North to any person who was willing to build a dwelling and live there for five years, (B) the discovery of gold in the Klondike, (C) the demand for work animals in the gold fields in the rugged mountains of California.
- _____ 2. Buck was born and lived the first four years of his life (A) as an aristocrat on a large estate in Santa Clara Valley, (B) as a working animal and family pet on a California cattle ranch, (C) with a family in San Francisco as the children's guardian and pet.
- _____ 3. Buck was (A) a hundred forty pound offspring of a St. Bernard and a Scotch shepherd, (B) a large wolf-hound who ruled over all the other dogs in the city, (C) a pure bred shepherd built for running and herding.
- _____ 4. Buck was stolen from his owner (A) by a man who had tried unsuccessfully to buy him, (B) and sold for gambling money, (C) and sold to a cattle baron who intended to take him to Texas.
- _____ 5. During his journey by train to Seattle, Buck (A) was consumed with grief over the loss of his family and his way of life, (B) was treated kindly by his captors and had no warning of what lay ahead, (C) turned into a raging fiend full of wrath so that his former owner wouldn't have recognized him.
- _____ 6. The man in the red sweater broke Buck into obedience by (A) a system of firm commands and rewards for the proper responses, (B) beating him with a club, (C) a gruff, commanding voice and a quick whip.

Summer Reading—*continued*

- _____ 7. Perrault, the French-Canadian who was Buck's first owner, wanted the best dogs because he (A) went into the wilderness ahead of the prospectors to set up supply depots for the government, (B) worked for the government transporting gold from one camp to the other, (C) had the job of courier of important dispatches for the government.
- _____ 8. One of the dogs that traveled aboard the *Narwhal* with Buck was killed by thirty or forty huskies that waited in a circle around her when (A) she was about to kill the pack leader, (B) the dog she was fighting knocked her off her feet, (C) she displayed fear when she was attacked by one of them.
- _____ 9. Buck soon learned that his new life was ruled by (A) the law of club and fang, (B) men without mercy and the strongest animals, (C) the law of quickness and obedience.
- _____ 10. After watching Spitz take part in the killing of another dog, how did Buck feel about the lead sled-dog? Buck (A) admired his courage and command over the other dogs, (B) held both fear and loathing for him, (C) felt a bitter and deathless hatred for the dog.
- _____ 11. Buck and the other dogs slept warmly in the cold by (A) digging and curling up in a hole that filled with their own body heat, (B) sleeping next to one another in an area sheltered by a building or a tent, (C) positioning themselves against boxes or barrels in the supply tent.
- _____ 12. Which of the following behaviors was **not** the result of Buck's cruel treatment and decivilization in the Northland? He (A) learned to steal food from people and the other dogs, (B) could hear and understand the faintest sound as well as scent the wind and forecast which way it would blow, (C) lost interest in the food he was offered and the work he was expected to do for men.
- _____ 13. One of the deadly dangers that François, Perrault, and the sled-dogs faced on their travels was (A) being attacked by wild wolves, (B) unexpected storms that stopped them in their tracks and prevented them from building fires large enough to keep them from freezing to death, (C) breaking through the ice on frozen lakes and rivers.
- _____ 14. The sled dogs, including Buck, (A) felt pride in being in the traces and doing their work, (B) found it difficult to become accustomed to being in the traces and working as a team, (C) enjoyed the companionship and teamwork of the traces, but most of them did not like the work of pulling a sled.
- _____ 15. Most of the food and equipment that François and Perrault carried were destroyed when they were attacked by (A) a band of starving huskies from an Indian village, (B) a pack of savage wolves, (C) bandits from a nearby mining camp.
- _____ 16. How did François solve the problem of Buck's injured feet, which were not so compact and hard as those of the huskies? He (A) moved Buck to a spot in front of the sled where the work was not as strenuous, (B) made moccasins for the dog, (C) allowed the dog to ride on the sled for several hours each day until his feet healed.
- _____ 17. Under the fierce conditions of trail life with François and Perrault, (A) Buck studied the countryside for possible ways of escaping the harness and his life as a sled-dog, (B) began to be drawn to the howls of the wild wolves that floated across the frozen land, (C) the dominant primordial beast, already strong in Buck, secretly grew.

Summer Reading—*continued*

- _____ 18. During the run up the Yukon, Buck slyly (A) left the camp each night to hunt by himself in the forest, (B) lead a revolt among the sled-dogs against Spitz, (C) started fights and stole food and made Spitz appear to be the guilty party.
- _____ 19. The fight to the death between Spitz and Buck resulted in (A) Spitz's death and Buck's gaining the position of lead dog, (B) terrible injuries in both dogs and a severe beating to both from François's club, (C) a loss of respect for Spitz so that the other dogs no longer minded him.
- _____ 20. When the government ordered Buck and his mates into the service of a Scotch half-breed, François (A) was glad to get rid of the dog he thought of as two devils, (B) called Buck, threw his arms around the dog, and wept over him, (C) tried to buy Buck for a thousand dollars, but his offer was refused.
- _____ 21. On his journey back to Dawson while sleeping before the fire, Buck had visions of (A) a place where there was no snow, men with clubs, or rivers waiting to swallow those who dared to travel across them, (B) Curly, Dolly, and the other dogs whose deaths he had witnessed, (C) a hairy man who did not stand erect and great beasts of prey circling in the darkness.
- _____ 22. When it was obvious that Dave the sled dog was dying, the men (A) considered it a mercy to allow him to die running in the traces, (B) took him from the traces and left him alone to die in the wilderness, (C) allowed him to ride on the sled when he could no longer stand on his feet.
- _____ 23. Which of the following was **not** true of Buck and his mates by the time they had finished their thirty-day delivery of the Salt Water Mail into Skaguay? (A) Buck had experienced a weight loss to one hundred fifteen pounds, and there was injury and weight loss for the rest of the team as well. (B) In five months the dogs had traveled twenty-five hundred miles with only five day's rest during the last eighteen hundred miles. (C) The number of men rushing into the Klondyke and the volume of mail the dogs were expected to deliver had greatly decreased.
- _____ 24. When Charles, Hal, and Mercedes first tried to leave Skaguay with Buck and his team (A) the sled was foolishly overloaded and badly packed, (B) the dogs had rested for almost three weeks, (C) Mercedes was the only one of the three who seemed to understand what was required for a successful journey into the gold fields.
- _____ 25. After their journey with Charles and his companions, Buck and the remaining four dogs (A) had managed to compensate for the long period of food shortage by hunting game for themselves, (B) were no more than skeletons, (C) were still willing to work in the traces without the use of the whip or club.
- _____ 26. John Thornton gained possession of Buck by (A) paying Hal five dollars for the dog, (B) taking Buck from the traces and hiding him while Hal was away, (C) stopping the beating Hal was giving Buck and threatening to kill Hal if he struck the dog again.
- _____ 27. Hal, Charles, Mercedes, and the four dogs (A) fell through the ice and disappeared into the White River, (B) disappeared over the horizon and were never seen again, (C) decided to wait out the spring and summer at the trading post at White River.
- _____ 28. Buck (A) experienced love for the first time with John Thornton, (B) grew to love John Thornton almost as much as he had loved the Judge, (C) felt an affection for John Thornton but was not able to trust any man enough to love him.

Summer Reading—*continued*

- _____ 29. Unlike other men who cared for their dogs out of a sense of business and duty, John Thornton (A) treated his dogs like they were his own children, (B) never saw the value of his dogs as a business venture and thought of them only as pets, (C) knew how intelligent they were, and treated them better than most humans.
- _____ 30. Buck expressed his affection for Thornton by (A) sitting with his head in the man's lap, (B) total obedience to the man's commands and always being by his side, (C) a feigned bite on the man's hand.
- _____ 31. To show his affection for Buck, Thornton had a habit of (A) taking the dog's head between his hands and shaking him, (B) placing his hand on the dog's head as they sat beside the fire, (C) wrestling with the dog on the floor.
- _____ 32. It was Buck's feelings for Thornton that kept him from (A) attacking other strange dogs who arrived in the area, (B) turning his back on the fire and answering the luring call that sounded from the forest, (C) fighting or attacking any other dog in the area.
- _____ 33. When Thornton was struck by a evil-tempered man in a bar, Buck (A) chased the man out of town onto a frozen river, (B) jumped between Thornton and the man snarling and showing all his teeth, (C) leaped on the man and tore open his throat.
- _____ 34. Once Buck broke three ribs saving his master from (A) a charging wolf, (B) a roaring stream, (C) a break in the ice on the White River.
- _____ 35. Thornton made a bet that Buck could break out, walk off with, and pull a sled loaded with (A) a thousand pounds, (B) twenty men, (C) two thousand pounds.
- _____ 36. What words did Thornton whisper into Buck's ear as the dog stood ready to win sixteen hundred dollars for his master? (A) "You can do it, Buck. You can do it." (B) "As you love me, Buck. As you love me." (C) "You're the best of the dogs, Buck. Always the best."
- _____ 37. The winnings from the bet allowed Thornton, his partners, Buck, and six other dogs to travel into the east in search of (A) good trapping territory and a place to start a settlement, (B) the source of the White River and the gold that it contained, (C) a fabled lost mine.
- _____ 38. Thornton and his partners found (A) the entrance to an old mine and a large vein of gold, (B) a broad valley where a days' work earned them thousands of dollars in clean dust and nuggets, (C) a rich trapping ground with thousands of beaver and other fur-bearing animals.
- _____ 39. As visions of another world and a mysterious call filled him with great unrest and strange desires, Buck began (A) losing his great love for Thornton, (B) leaving camp to run through the forest and open spaces in search of the thing that called him, (C) remembering his old life in California and longing for home.
- _____ 40. After running with the wild timber wolf, Buck (A) knew he had found the thing that had been calling him and would never return to live with men again, (B) knew that he was not like the other wolves and was destined to always be alone. (C) returned to camp and sprang upon John Thornton in a frenzy of affection.
- _____ 41. As Thornton and his partners worked, Buck took to (A) sitting lazily in front of the fire and musing about the wild wolf he had run with, (B) staying away from camp for days, hunting and killing his own food. (C) refusing food and contact with the men and the other dogs.

- _____ 42. What Thornton and his partners did not see when Buck left camp was (A) the terrible transformation that took place in the dog, (B) the savage dangers he faced and managed to survive, (C) the wolves who fled from him in terror.
- _____ 43. Upon returning to camp from hunting and killing a large moose, Buck found that (A) Thornton, his partners, and the other dogs had been attacked and killed by Yeehats, (B) a pack of wolves had savagely attacked, killing the men and dogs, (C) the men and dogs has disappeared leaving no clue as to the cause.
- _____ 44. Because of his love for John Thornton, Buck (A) savagely attacked every wolf he encountered for a week, forgetting his kinship with them, (B) stayed in the destroyed camp for over a week, howling mournfully for Thornton, (C) ripped the throats of the Yeehats, causing them to flee in terror.
- _____ 45. With the death of John Thornton, (A) Buck's great heart was broken, and his only comfort was the call of the wild, (B) the last tie that bound him to Man was broken, (C) Buck lost all memory of his former life as a servant and companion of Man.
- _____ 46. Buck answered the call of the wild by (A) wandering the forests and valleys, a giant lone wolf that knew no equal, (B) answering the howls that echoed from the forest each night, (C) joining a pack of timber wolves.
- _____ 47. Which of the following was **not** true of the stories told by the Yeehats? There was a (A) change in the markings of some timber wolves, (B) great Ghost Dog that ran at the head of the wolf pack, robbed their traps, and killed their dogs, (C) great dog spirit that had come to live among them.
- _____ 48. Some Yeehats hunters were found (A) in aimless pursuit of the spirit of a great dog, (B) with their throats slashed open and huge wolf prints about them in the snow, (C) torn to bits by unknown animals.
- _____ 49. In the summers a large wolf entered the valley where the Yeehats believed an Evil Spirit lived, to stop by a yellow stream where he (A) mused for a time, gave one, long, mournful howl, and then departed (B) lay for hours, gazing into the water, (C) stood near the bank, howling into the wilderness for hours.
- _____ 50. When the long winter nights came, Buck (A) led wolf attacks on mining camps, making off with the sled-dogs, (B) prowled in the wilderness and Indian camps like a phantom, (C) could be seen running at the head of a wolf pack, his great throat a-bellow.

