

The Call of the Wild

野性的呼唤



Jack London

Mc
Graw
Hill

Pre-Intermediate

B1 Threshold



With
MP3 Inside
Extra Section on Culture
Integrated Activities
Fictional and Non-Fictional Texts
Glossary with Vocabulary Activities



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Pictures

1 Look at the illustrations in the first chapter. Where do you think the action takes place?

- a) near Mexico
- b) near Brazil
- c) in Canada
- d) in California

CHAPTER 1

Buck Goes to the Northland

This is a story about a dog named Buck. Buck is a big, strong dog. He has a thick, furry coat and he's very healthy. Buck lives a happy life in Santa Clara, California, with Judge Miller. He is the Judge's favourite dog. Their house is in the country and it's very big. It's a nice house with a large garden. There are fruit trees in the garden and a lot of flowers. There are huge pastures and there are stables.

There are other dogs at the Judge's place, too. Toots is a Japanese pug dog and Ysabel is a Mexican hairless dog. They are very strange creatures! They don't like to run outside with Buck, they stay indoors all the time. Buck doesn't like to stay indoors, he likes to swim and hunt. He likes to walk with the Judge's daughters early in the morning. At night, he likes to lie near the Judge's feet by the fireplace and sleep.

Buck loves his home. He runs all over the gardens and the pastures and he knows all the other animals. He is the king of Judge Miller's place!

Vocabulary

2 Match each term to its definition.

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| husky | a) a person who digs in the ground for valuable metals |
| baggage car | b) a strong, furry and tough dog |
| miner | c) the part of a train that holds bags |
| judge | d) a magistrate |
| gardener | e) a person who looks after flowers and trees |

It is 1897 and in America a lot of things are changing. Many men are going north to the freezing wilderness of the Northland. There is a lot of gold in the Northland and they are going there to find it and become rich. The men who work in the cold, snowy Northland need strong, healthy dogs to help them. They need big, heavy dogs with thick, furry coats to pull their sleds to the places where the gold is and to help them move their equipment.

Manuel works at Judge Miller's place as a gardener. He isn't a good man. He is mean and he likes gambling. Buck doesn't like Manuel.



One night Manuel goes to the stables where Buck is sleeping. He puts a rope around Buck's neck. Buck **growls** – he doesn't like the **rope** – but Manuel pulls him. He **steals** Buck from Judge Miller's place.

Now Manuel is talking to two strangers. They are not good men. They buy dogs at cheap prices and sell them to the men in the Northland for a lot of money. "Here is the dog you want. His name is Buck," says Manuel.

Buck growls again. Manuel is angry and pulls the rope hard.

The rope is tight around Buck's neck now.

He can't **breathe**.

"Here's your money!

Now go! And remember – don't say anything," says one of the strangers.

The other pulls the rope around Buck's neck again. Buck feels ill – the rope is **choking** him.

His **tongue** and **throat** hurt. This terrible treatment is new to him. He is confused and **frightened**.

The strangers put Buck on a train. Buck often travels on the train with Judge Miller,



but this time it's different. He is in the baggage car with the suitcases and boxes. It is cold and uncomfortable and Buck is afraid. One of the strangers comes near to Buck. He tries to take the rope. Buck growls and bites his hand. The stranger swears and beats Buck.

Later the train stops and the strangers take Buck with them into a saloon.

The barman asks the strangers how much money they paid for Buck.

"One hundred dollars," they reply.

"Yes, I think he's worth that," the barman says, looking at the big, healthy dog.

Buck lies in a cage in the baggage car of the train all night. He is in pain and he can't understand what is happening. Why do these strangers want him? Why is he in this uncomfortable cage? He jumps up every time he hears a noise. When the strangers look at him he growls.

In the morning, the men take him off the train. In the daylight Buck looks at his new owners. They are dirty and their clothes are very worn. They laugh at him and poke sticks through the bars of the cage to torment him.

Then they put his cage on another train.

It travels on for two days and two nights. They don't give Buck any food or any water. He is very hungry and thirsty.

At last the train stops. Where is Buck now?



Buck Goes to the Northland

Check your comprehension

3 Choose the correct word.

- 1) Buck's owner is
☐ Toots ☐ Manuel
☐ Judge Miller ☐ Ysabel
- 2) Judge Miller's place is
☐ at the seaside ☐ in the country
☐ in the city
- 3) Men are going to the Northland to
☐ buy dogs ☐ look for gold
☐ pull sleds
- 4) Manuel is
☐ nice ☐ kind
☐ strong ☐ bad
- 5) Manuel sells Buck for
☐ \$100 ☐ \$100,000 ☐ \$1,000
- 6) Buck's new owners put him
☐ on a horse ☐ in a car
☐ on a train ☐ on a boat

Characters

4 Match each character to his or her description.

Buck	the gardener
Judge Miller	a Mexican hairless dog
Toots	a strong and furry dog
Manuel	Buck's owner
Ysabel	a Japanese pug dog

Pictures

5 Locate each of these regions in a world atlas.

Mexico Canada California Alaska USA

Words

6 Write out these numbers in figures.

one hundred

fifty-five

twelve

three hundred and twenty-three

7 Match each word to its opposite.

hungry

cry

happy

full

loves

start

laugh

sad

stop

hates

Story summary

8 Fill in the paragraph with the following words.

happy

cage

sells

sticks

kind

looks

strong

steals

dirty

lives

loves

Buck is a big, _____ dog. He _____ at

Judge Miller's place. He _____ his home.

One day, Manuel _____ Buck and _____

him to two strangers. The two strangers aren't very

_____ to Buck. They put him in a _____

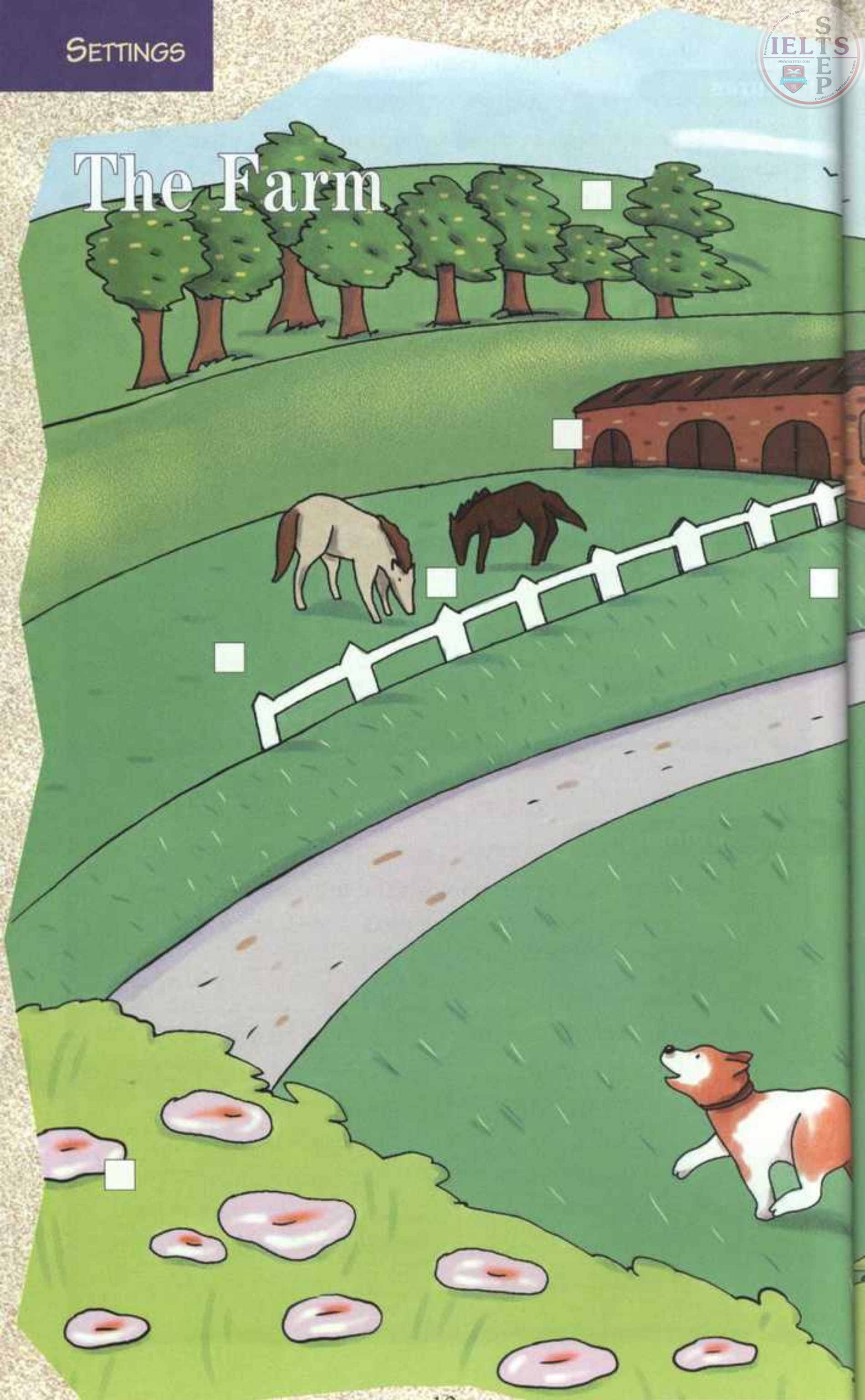
on a train. In the morning, Buck _____ at his two

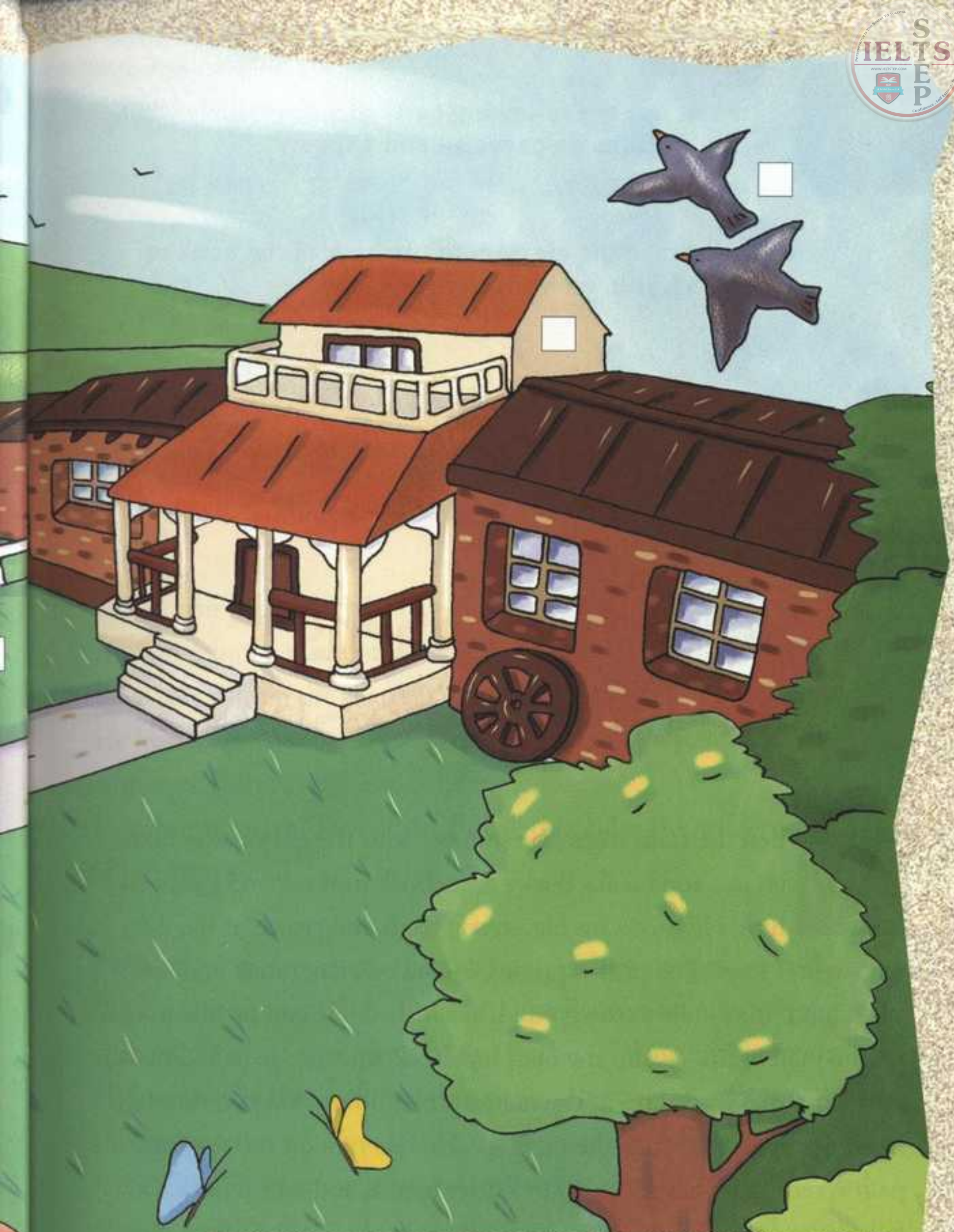
owners. They are very _____. They laugh at him

and poke _____ through the bars of the cage. Buck

is not _____.

The Farm





Look carefully at the illustration and match the words to the parts of the picture.

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------|------------|
| a) stables | d) lawn | g) flowers |
| b) fruit trees | e) pastures | h) birds |
| c) horses | f) house | |



Pictures

1 Point out the following parts of a dog's body, using the pictures on pages 14 and 15.

ear tongue eye front leg back leg
tail mouth nose coat

Now use the glossary in the back of the book to check your answers.

CHAPTER 2

Buck Learns “the Law of the Stick”

When the train stops, the stranger with the red sweater takes an **axe** and breaks Buck's cage. Buck runs out and **jumps on** him. He shows his big, strong teeth and growls at the dirty red-sweater man. The man is **furious**. He takes a large stick and hits Buck **hard**. Buck falls to the ground, astonished. He gets up and jumps on the man again. Again, the man hits Buck with the stick and he falls to the **ground**. Buck runs at the man a dozen times. A dozen times the man hits Buck hard with the big stick. He hits him on the nose and the pain is terrible! There is blood in Buck's mouth and on his back. He falls down again and this time he doesn't get up – he can't fight the man any more, he is too tired and hurt.

The red-sweater man talks to Buck. “Well, Buck, my boy, the fighting is finished. Now you know that I am your **master**. Be a good dog and you get good treatment. Be a bad dog and you get the stick! Understand?”

Words

2 Write the plural form of each noun in the list.

dog _____
cage _____
box _____
nose _____
baby _____
wife _____
tooth _____



The man pats Buck's head.
He brings him a piece of meat.
Buck eats it from the man's hand.
He learns that he must obey a man
with a stick and it is a lesson he remembers.
It is the primitive "Law of the Stick" that rules the wilderness
of the Northland.

Many dogs arrive on trains in boxes. They are tied up with ropes.
Some of them fight the men, like Buck. The men use the stick
with all of them. Again and again, Buck sees this terrible treatment.
He knows now that a man with a stick is the master – dogs must obey.

Buck watches the man in the red sweater. He talks to a lot of other
men. They give him money. Sometimes these men take one of the
dogs away with them. Buck wonders where these dogs and men go.
He is glad he doesn't have to go with them. But a few days later
things change. A man buys Buck from the red-sweater man.
This man is small and dark. He is foreign and doesn't speak English
very well. It's difficult for Buck to understand him.

"Whew!" he cries when he sees Buck. "That one big dog! Eh?
How much?"

“Three hundred dollars – and that’s a very good price,” says the red-sweater man, quickly.

The foreign man smiles. He knows dogs. He knows that three hundred dollars is a fair price for a dog like Buck. He gives the money to the red-sweater man. He also buys Curly, a big, friendly Newfoundland dog. Then Buck, Curly and the foreign man leave the town together on a ship called the *Narwhal*. Buck never sees the man with the red sweater again.



The foreign man’s name is Perrault and he is a French-Canadian. He works for the Canadian government. He is a mail carrier. He carries important messages to different places in the great Northland. He travels with a French-Canadian Indian called François.

François is a very tall, broad man. The two new owners are good, strong men. They are fair and calm and Buck respects them.

Buck and Curly join Perrault’s other two dogs on the ship. One of them is a big, white husky called Spitz, from Spitzbergen. He knows the Northland and its harsh laws. He is very clever – he steals Buck’s first meal. Buck jumps at him and François whips Buck for making trouble.

The other dog is **moody** and depressed. His name is Dave. He doesn't want to be with the other dogs and he never shows any emotion. Buck thinks he is a strange animal.

The *Narwhal* travels day and night. There is no noise but the sound of the **propeller**. One day is the same as the next, but Buck notices that the weather is getting colder. One morning, when he wakes up he can't hear the propeller any more. All the dogs on the *Narwhal* become very excited, and start **barking**.

François takes the dogs up to the top of the ship. They step off the ship and into something white and soft on the shore. It feels like **mud**. Buck is a bit frightened. This white **stuff** falls from the sky onto his coat. He shakes himself, but more white stuff falls on him. Buck is very curious – he **sniffs** the white stuff and **licks** some up on his tongue. It bites like fire but after a second the feeling is gone.

He tries it again. The men are all watching Buck and laughing. He feels **silly** but he doesn't know why they are laughing. This is the first time he sees snow.





Buck Learns "The Law of the Stick"

Check your comprehension

3 True or false? Indicate T or F.

	T	F
1) Every time Buck jumps at the red-sweater man, he pats Buck.	☐	☐
2) After the fight, the man with the red sweater gives Buck a piece of cheese.	☐	☐
3) The red-sweater man sells Buck for \$30.	☐	☐
4) Buck's new owner is American.	☐	☐
5) François is half Red Indian.	☐	☐
6) Perrault buys two other dogs, apart from Buck.	☐	☐
7) Perrault and François take Buck on a bus.	☐	☐

Characters

4 Which of these words describe the two men who buy Buck from Manuel?

kind	mean
rich	poor
gentle	violent
friendly	unfriendly

5 Match the dogs to their descriptions.

Spitz	a big, friendly Newfoundland dog
Curly	a moody, depressed dog
Dave	a clever, white husky

Words

6 What is Buck doing? Write a sentence for each picture.
C) Buck is jumping at the red-sweater man.



Language

7 Complete the sentences with the positive or negative form of these verbs.

eat like rain live speak be

1) Peter _____ his new school very much.

2) Molly _____ in Madrid and she
_____ Spanish.

3) My dog _____ a lot of meat.

4) It _____ very often in Italy in the summer.

5) This film _____ very interesting – can we
change the channel?

SIMPLE PRESENT (THIRD PERSON SINGULAR)

He brings him a piece of meat.
This time he doesn't get up.

Story summary

8 Complete the summary with the appropriate words.

The train _____ and the red-sweater man breaks
Buck's cage. Buck _____ on him and he
_____ Buck many times with a large _____.
Buck learns to _____ a man with a stick. A man
called _____ buys Buck for three hundred
_____. He has three other dogs, too: Curly,
_____ and _____. He puts them on a
_____ called the Narwhal and they go to the
Northland. When they arrive, Buck sees _____ for the
first time.



Pictures

1 Examine the pictures in chapter 3. Find anything that has these colours.

red	brown
black	blue
white	green
yellow	orange

2 Look at the first and the third illustrations. Identify each of the following items.

whip axe firewood sled harness fangs jaws

CHAPTER 3

Buck Learns “the Law of the Fang”

Buck's first day in the strange Northland is like a nightmare. Everything he sees and touches is strange and disturbing. He remembers the Judge's comfortable house in warm, sunny California and his easy, pleasant life there. Now he finds himself in a cold, harsh place where life is very primitive. There is no peace or rest here. Instead there is a lot of confusion, noise and danger.

Here dogs fight in ways Buck doesn't understand. They are vicious, like wolves. Curly is their first victim. She is a friendly dog and goes over to make friends with a large male husky. The husky is the size of a wolf, but he is smaller than Curly. The husky is not friendly. He looks coldly at her, then suddenly springs on her. His fangs are huge and sharp and his jaws are very strong. He rips Curly's face with his teeth and she squeals with pain and fear.

Words

- 3 Read the title of chapter 3.
What do you think it means?
Use the dictionary
to help you.



Then something strange happens. Thirty or forty huskies come close and surround Curly and the husky dog. Curly rushes at the husky but he moves quickly. He meets Curly in mid-air with his chest. The blow knocks her to the ground. She cannot get up.

The other huskies are excited. They snarl, bark and yelp. Buck can't understand why these dogs watch this terrible scene, why they lick their lips. Slowly, they move towards Curly. They start to bite and tear at her. She is buried under all the dogs. This is the way wolves fight: one of them jumps in and strikes quickly, then they all attack the injured animal. Buck is shocked and afraid.

François arrives with an axe. Men with sticks come too. They hit the dogs again and again and at last the dogs stop biting poor Curly. The men move the dogs away from her but her warm, brown body is limp and lifeless. There is a lot of red blood on the white snow.

This is the way of life in the Northland. There is no fair play, no compassion. For the men and dogs of the Northland there is no law except "The Law of the Stick and the Fang." It is a law of pain and of power. Only the strong survive here.



Soon Buck has another shock. François puts a lot of straps and buckles on his back – it is a sled harness.

Buck remembers the harnesses on the horses in the Judge's stables. Now Buck must work like horses work, he must pull François on the sled to the forest in the valley. François loads the sled with firewood, then Buck pulls it back to the camp. Buck doesn't like the work, but he doesn't want to disobey. He remembers the stick and the pain it causes. François is strict and demands complete obedience. He often uses his whip.

Buck is clever and learns quickly. Dave is behind Buck in the sled harness and nips Buck on his legs when he doesn't know what to do. Spitz is the leader. He knows how to pull sleds and he is used to working in the cold and snow. But he doesn't like Buck. He often growls at him and tries to fight with him when he can. Buck learns how to pull from the other dogs. He also learns François' commands. "Ho!" means "stop." "Mush!" means "go." He learns that he mustn't go in front of the sled when they are going down hills.

"These are good dogs," says François to Perrault, "and that Buck, he pulls very well. I teach them quick."

Perrault buys two more dogs for the team. Billee and Joe are full-bred huskies. They are brothers but they have very different personalities. Billee is a friendly, happy dog, but Joe is very moody – he is often angry and aggressive. The team dogs welcome the two brother dogs in different ways. Buck treats them as friends, Dave ignores them and Spitz fights with both of them. When Spitz bites Billee he cowers away afraid, but when Spitz tries to bite Joe, Joe fights back. The fur stands up along his back and his ears lie flat on his head. He shows his sharp teeth and snarls. Spitz doesn't bite Joe again.

In the evening, Perrault brings another old husky into the camp. This dog is long and thin with many scars on his face and only one eye. The other dogs understand that he is a fighter who has learned the harsh laws of the Northland a long time ago and they immediately respect him. His name is Sol-leks, which means "Angry One." Like Dave, he asks for nothing, cares for nothing, and expects nothing. When Sol-leks walks into the camp, even Spitz doesn't dare to fight him.



Buck Learns "The Law of the Fang"

Check your comprehension

4 Answer the questions.

1) Who does Curly fight with?

2) Who wins the fight?

3) What do the men do when the dogs fight?

4) Who is the leader of the dogsled team?

5) What is "The Law of the Stick and Fang"?

Pictures

5 Now match the words to the numbers in the picture.

straps

whip

load

runners

harness



Characters

6 Tick the words that describe each of the three characters.

the red-sweater man

☐ friendly ☐ clean ☐ dirty ☐ bad ☐ kind ☐ harsh

François

☐ gentle ☐ stern ☐ lazy ☐ big ☐ nervous ☐ small

Perrault

☐ foreign ☐ tall ☐ weak ☐ fair ☐ calm ☐ active

Words

7 Look up the following words in a dictionary.

growl bark nip bite sniff yelp

Language

8 Complete the sentences with **must** or **mustn't** and the verbs in this list.

touch come drive phone drive

1) You can go to the party but you _____ home by 12 o'clock.

2) If you are under 18 you _____ a car.

3) I _____ Julie. The last time I called her was three months ago.

4) In England you _____ on the left.

5) You _____ these electric wires – they are very dangerous.

MUST/MUSTN'T

Now Buck *must* work like horses work.
He *mustn't* run in front of the sled...



The story so far

1 True or false? Indicate T or F.

- 1) Buck runs away from Judge Miller's place.
- 2) He arrives in the Northland by train.
- 3) He prefers the Northland to California.
- 4) The other dogs he meets there are kind and gentle.
- 5) Spitz is Buck's best friend.
- 6) Buck learns to work, pulling the sled.

T F

☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐

CHAPTER 4

Buck's Life in the Harsh Northland

Buck cannot sleep in the cold Northland. One night, he walks through the busy camp and into François and Perrault's tent to get warm. They throw the cooking utensils at him and shout at him – dogs are not allowed in men's tents in the Northland. Buck leaves the warm tent dejectedly and lies down in the cold snow. The air is freezing and he shivers violently. It is impossible to sleep and soon he gets up and starts to walk around the camp again. He can't find anywhere comfortable to sleep – other dogs are already in the best sleeping places.

Eventually Buck has an idea. He goes to lie next to his companions from the sled team. But he has a surprise; they're gone! He wanders around the big camp looking for them. Where are they? He feels lonely and depressed. He walks on and suddenly falls down through the snow. Something wriggles under him. He jumps back, snarling, then hears a friendly whimper. Buck sniffs the hole in the snow and

Pictures

2 What is Buck doing?

Match the activities to the pictures in chapter 4.

- a) pulling the sled
- b) falling into a hole in the snow
- c) sniffing the food



sees a dog down there. Billee is curled up under the snow, snug and warm! He licks Buck's face with his warm, wet tongue.

This is another lesson for Buck – how dogs stay warm in the Northland. Now Buck chooses a space, digs a hole, and curls up to sleep under the blanket of snow. He sleeps comfortably that night.



Buck doesn't open his eyes again until he hears noises of the camp the next morning. More snow fell during the night and Buck is now completely covered. He doesn't remember where he is. He feels trapped, he is frightened. He springs out of the sleeping hole into the sunlight, barking frantically. The snow flies around him in a cloud. Then he sees the tents and hears François' voice.

Now he remembers that he's in the camp. The men watch him.

"That Buck, he learn fast," says François.

Perrault has important messages from the government to deliver in the north. He must put together a good dogsled team. He is very happy that he has Buck. Buck is a strong, clever dog and he learns quickly. Three more huskies come to join the team too. The men harness all the dogs to the sleds. Soon they are on the trail to Dyea Canyon. Buck is happy to leave the camp at last. The work is hard but he likes it, he likes to be a part of this strong team. Even Dave and Sol-leks seem like different dogs when they work, they are more active and alert. The dogs are content working together.

The trip to Dyea Canyon is long and difficult. They run through forests, across glaciers, through snowdrifts and over frozen lakes. They make good time, travelling forty miles a day. That night, they pull into a huge camp at Lake Bennett. Thousands of gold miners live in this camp. They build boats for the summer here.

Buck makes his hole in the snow and sleeps very well that night. He is very, very tired.

The next day, and for many days, the trails are harder and they must travel slower. Perrault often has to walk in front of the sled to beat a path for the dogs in the snow. He knows a lot about ice and snow. He knows where the ice is too thin for the sled and where the snow is too deep. Perrault's knowledge saves them many times. When it gets dark they make camp, and when the sun rises in the morning they are up and ready to travel again.

It is a wild, primitive life. The dogs eat fish and sleep in the snow. Buck is always hungry. François gives him one and a half pounds of salmon a day but it is never enough! The work and the cold make him hungrier still. But Buck is lucky. The other dogs are smaller and thinner than him and François only gives them one pound of salmon each.

At first Buck eats his food politely, like he ate in the Southland, and often other, quicker dogs steal his dinner from under his nose! He chases the thieves to fight them, but while he is fighting, others steal the food from them! But soon Buck learns to be smarter. He eats as fast as the other dogs and learns to defend his food. He watches and waits and understands something new about this strange, harsh life every day. One day he sees Pike, a new dog, stealing a slice of bacon from Perrault. Buck tries the same thing the next day. He is very quick and gets a whole chunk of bacon. After this, Buck plays the same trick on Perrault many times but he never gets caught. Dub, another new dog, tries it too, but he is not as quick as Buck. Dub always gets caught and Perrault hits him with his stick.

Gradually, Buck learns to survive in these harsh new conditions. He learns how to live with the

terrible cold, how to steal extra food when he is hungry. He learns never to run away from a fight but to show the other dogs he is not afraid. He learns how to work with his companions in the dogsled team. This is the Northland and here it is The Law of the Stick and the Fang that rules them all.





Buck's Life in the Harsh Northland

Check your comprehension

3 True or false? Indicate T or F.

- | | T | F |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) It is very cold at night in the Northland. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 2) The dogs go to sleep under the mud. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 3) Buck goes to sleep in Perrault's tent. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 4) Buck steals salmon from Perrault. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 5) The trails are easy and the dogsled team travels fast. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 6) Perrault doesn't understand anything about snow and ice. | ☐ | ☐ |

Pictures

4 Look at the illustration at the top of page 25 and identify these objects.

fire
dishes
cooking utensils
tent
blankets
firewood

5 Look at the illustrations again and fill in the sentences with the correct prepositions.

outside on inside next to under

- 1) The dogs are sleeping _____ the snow.
- 2) The tent is _____ the snow.
- 3) The dogs are _____ the tent.
- 4) The food is _____ the tent.
- 5) Buck is sleeping _____ Billee.

Words

6 Match each adjective to a related noun.

cold	poles
canvas	dogs
wooden	snow
sleeping	tent
leather	harness

Language

7 Complete the sentences with the comparative form of these adjectives.

happy tall long
expensive intelligent

- 1) My brother Joe is only 13 but he's 65 centimetres _____ than me!
- 2) The River Nile is _____ than the River Amazon.
- 3) I like the blue dress but it's _____ than the red dress – it's \$50.00.
- 4) Dolphins are _____ than seals.
- 5) I was much _____ at university than at school.

COMPARISONS WITH THE MAJORITY

They are *more active* and alert...
Other, *quicker* dogs steal his dinner.

Words

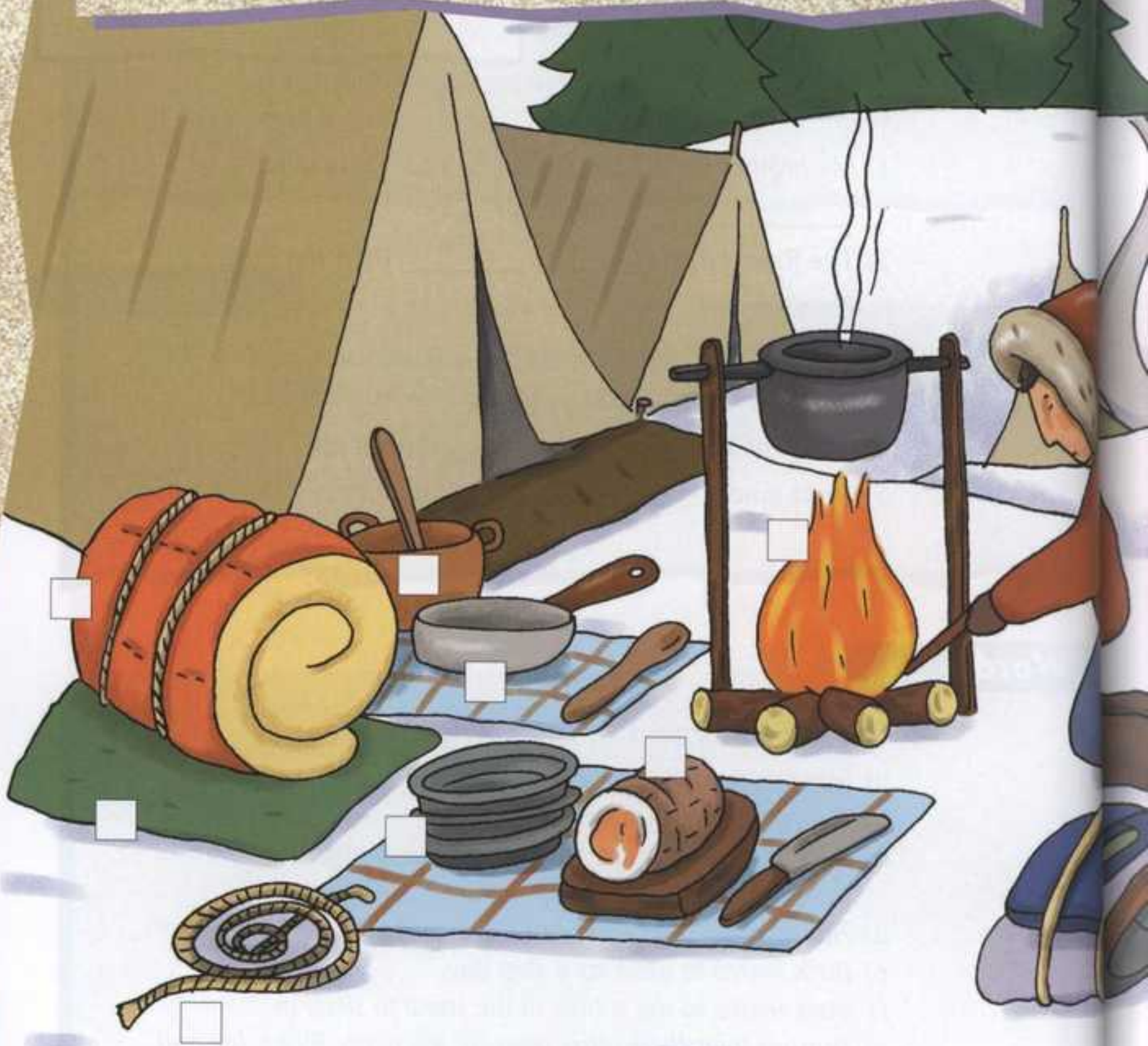
8 Put the sentences in the correct order.

- a) François puts the harness on Buck.
- b) A husky fights Curly and kills her.
- c) Buck thinks life in the Northland is very different from California.
- d) All the other dogs surround Curly and bite her body.
- e) Buck learns to work as a sled dog.
- f) Buck learns to dig a hole in the snow to sleep in.
- g) Perrault buys three other dogs for the team, Billee, Joe and Sol-leks.

The Camp

Look carefully at the illustration and match the words to the parts of the picture.

- | | | | |
|---------|-------------|-----------------|---------|
| a) pan | d) axe | g) bacon | j) sled |
| b) whip | e) dishes | h) sleeping bag | k) fire |
| c) pot | f) blankets | i) firewood | l) tent |







The story so far

1 True or false?
Indicate T or F.

- 1) Buck learns to drive the sled.
- 2) Buck learns to steal food when he's hungry.
- 3) Buck learns to curl up under the blankets to keep warm.
- 4) Buck learns to run away from fights.
- 5) Buck learns to obey a man with a pistol.

T	F
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐

CHAPTER 5

Buck Fights Hungry Wolves

Buck becomes stronger and stronger. His muscles are as hard as **iron**. He doesn't feel pain any more. He can see and smell very well and his **hearing** is acute. He learns to bite the ice out from between his **toes** when his feet **freeze** on the trail. He knows how to make waterholes in thin ice – he breaks the ice with his **stiff** front legs and drinks. His natural instincts come out in this vast wilderness and he becomes strong and smart – a true Northland dog. He is a great survivor. He is also learning to be a great fighter. He doesn't start fights, in fact he tries to **avoid** them, but Spitz is his enemy and Spitz wants to fight all the time.

The team moves on farther north. They make camp at Lake Le Barge. It is very, very cold there. The wind is fierce and cuts like a knife. It gets dark very early and they have to make camp quickly.

There is a wall of rock near the lake shore and they camp under it, on the frozen lake surface. François and Perrault build a fire and lay

Words

2 Can you recognise each of these actions in the pictures?

- a) hear b) smell c) see d) taste

3 Now complete the sentences with the words from exercise 2. (Pay attention to placing the final -s on the verb, where necessary.)

- 1) Your perfume _____ nice.
- 2) Please speak louder. I can't _____ you.
- 3) This soup _____ delicious.
- 4) Look at the map. Can you _____ the Pacific Ocean?

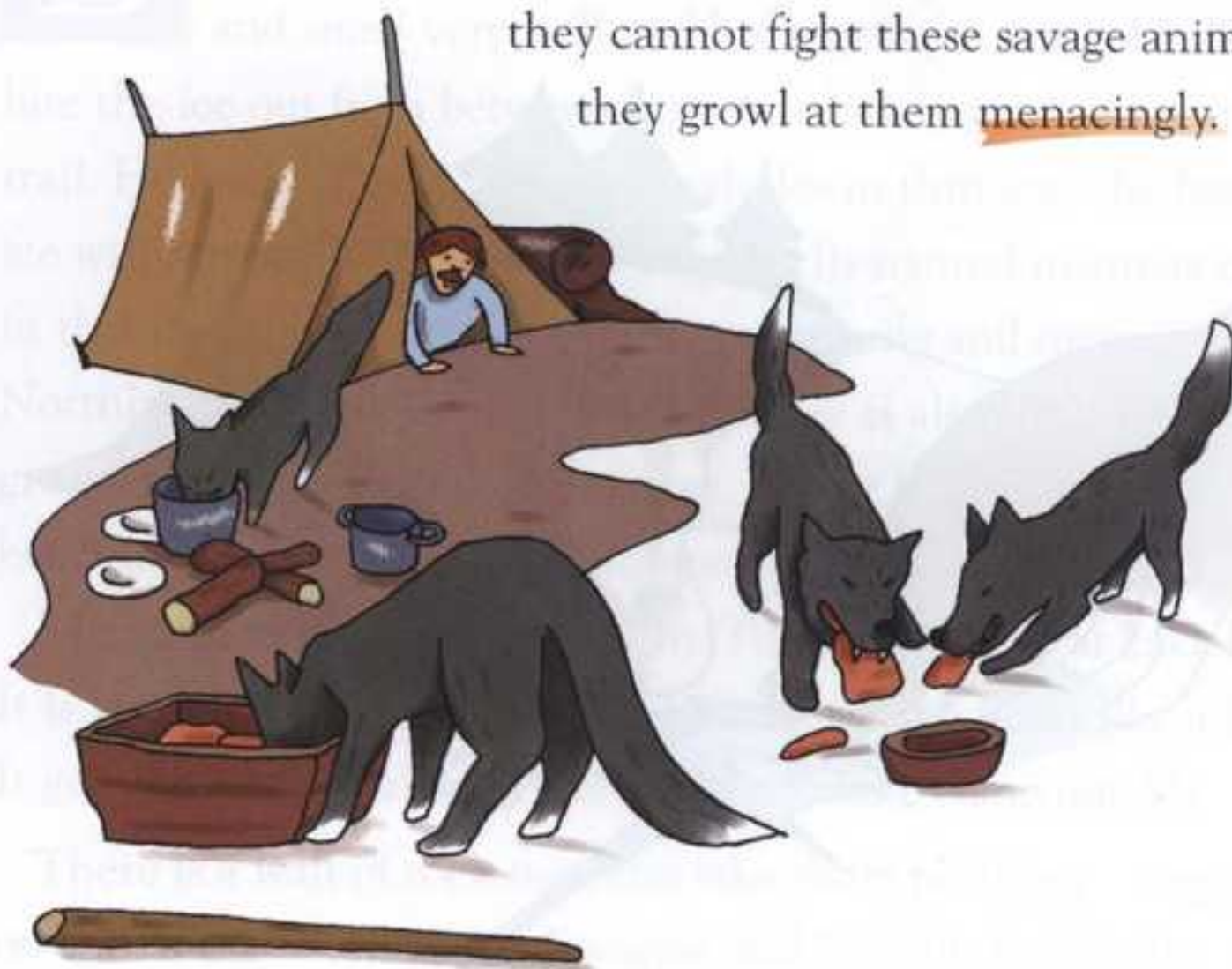
their sleeping bags on the ice. Buck digs his sleeping hole near a large rock that protects him from the cold. They eat in the dark. Buck does not want to leave his warm sleeping hole to eat, but he is very hungry, and so he comes out to eat his fish. When he goes back to the hole he finds Spitz in it. He knows it's time to teach Spitz a lesson. He springs on him and they bite and tear each other with their fangs.



François runs over to the fighting dogs. “Ahhh! Give it to ’em, Buck! Give it to ’em!” he cries.

Both Spitz and Buck **circle**, showing their teeth. Perrault and François move in, ready to stop the fight. All eyes are on Buck and Spitz. No one notices that in the **shadows** far from the fire, a **pack** of starving wolves is slowly approaching the camp. They look like huskies, but they are not. They are **wild** animals and they are **crazy** with **hunger**. They smell food in the camp. They move steadily towards the food box. Perrault turns round and sees a wolf with its head inside the box. He throws his stick at it but it **misses** the wolf and hits the food box, which breaks into **pieces**. The other wolves run to the food which **spills out** and start to **gulp it down**. They feel Perrault’s stick on their backs but they are so hungry they don’t **care**. They continue to eat **ravenously**.

The team-dogs come out of their sleeping holes to watch the wolves. They are very thin, their bones show through their **skin**, and they are mad with hunger. The team-dogs know they cannot fight these savage animals, but they growl at them **menacingly**.

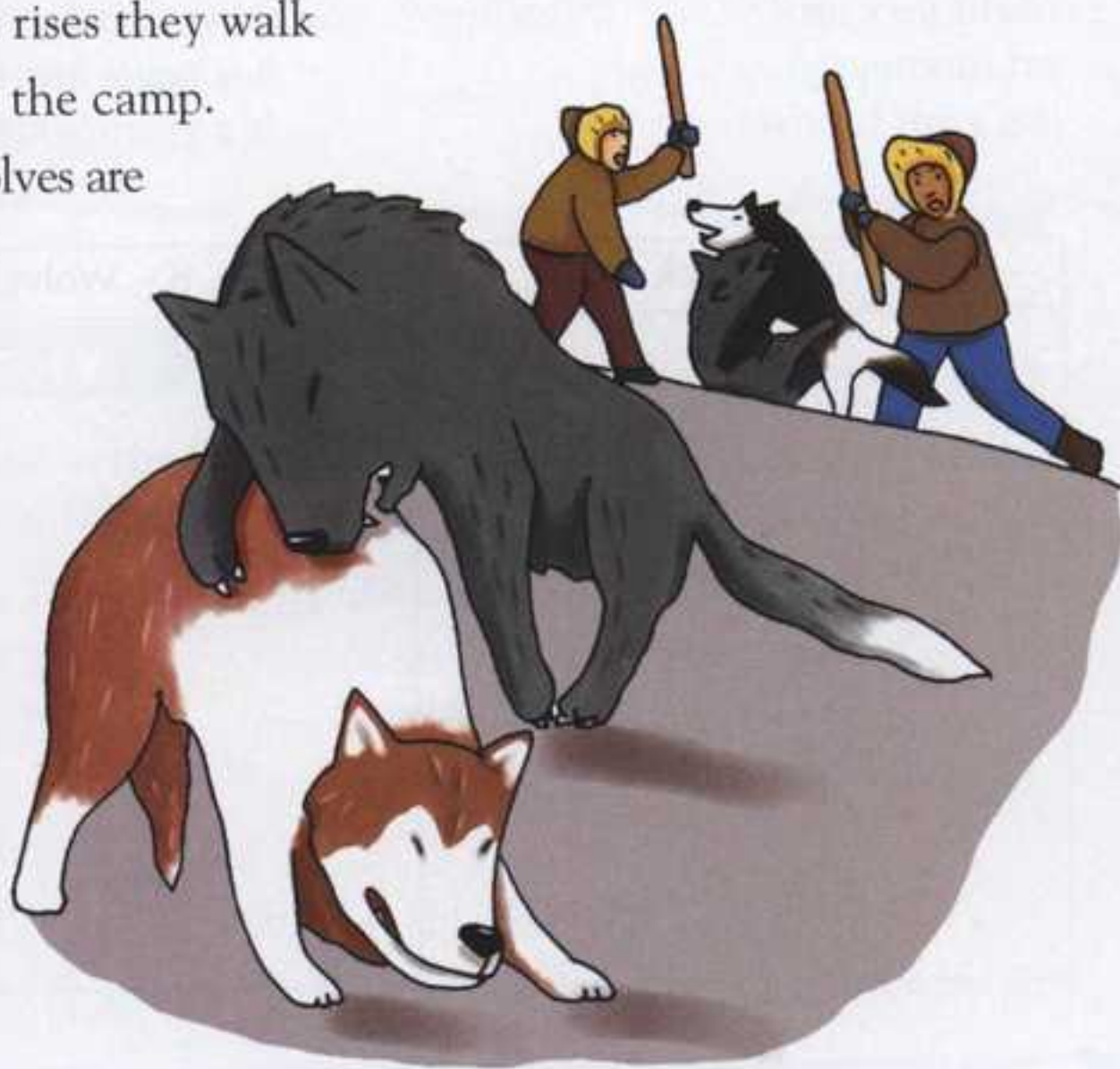


Suddenly the wolves turn on the team-dogs. Three of them attack Buck. They tear and rip his shoulder, snarling and growling furiously. The scene is terrifying. Billee is crying in terror, Dave and Sol-leks are bleeding from many bites, but Joe bares his teeth like a devil and springs in to attack. He bites one of the wolves right to the bone and breaks its leg. Then Pike leaps upon the wounded wolf and breaks its neck. Buck bites through the neck of one wolf, and Spitz wounds another. The scene is barbaric and bloody.

Perrault and François want to save their team-dogs, but they know they also have to save the rest of their food if they want to survive on the trail – they cannot help. Dave is frightened and runs away across the ice. Pike and Dub soon follow him. The other team-dogs run after them too. Later, the nine dogs gather together in the forest. All of them are wounded in many places. Dub has a bad wound on his left leg. Dolly, the last dog to join the team, is bleeding at the throat. One of Joe's eyes is gone, and Billee has a torn ear.

When the sun rises they walk back slowly to the camp.

The hungry wolves are gone and, with them, half of the team's food supply.





Buck Fights Hungry Wolves

Check your comprehension

4 Answer the questions.

- 1) Why does Buck decide to fight Spitz?
- 2) What do the wolves look like?
- 3) How does Perrault try to stop the wolves from eating the food?
- 4) Why does the food come out of the box?
- 5) What happens to Buck?
- 6) Who loses his eye in the fight with the wolves?

Characters

5 Copy the phrases that describe Buck in column A, and those that describe the wolves in column B.

have bones showing through their skin
his muscles are hard as iron
is strong and smart
smells very well
eat ravenously
is a great survivor

are mad with hunger
makes waterholes in thin ice
are savage animals
move steadily
has acute hearing
is a great fighter

A - Buck	B - Wolves

Language

ADVERBS

- 6 Read these adjectives. Change them into adverbs, and then use them to complete the sentences below.**

They move *steadily* towards Buck.
They growl at them *menacingly*.

quiet quick close noise kind

- 1) The children played very _____ in the garden and the neighbours were angry.
- 2) "Would you like to lie down, dear?" her grandmother asked.
_____.
- 3) The detective followed the thieves _____ in his car.
- 4) "Please don't tell anyone my secret," she said _____.
- 5) The Ferrari moved _____ behind the McLaren and overtook it at the corner.

- 7 Use the comparative form of the adjectives in parentheses to complete the sentences.**

- 1) The wolves are _____ than the huskies. (thin)
- 2) The wolves are _____ than the huskies. (hungry)
- 3) The huskies are _____ than the wolves. (fat)
- 4) François and Perrault are _____ about the food than about the dogs. (worried)
- 5) The weather is _____ in the Northland than in California. (cold)

Story summary

- 8 Use verbs from chapter 5 to complete the sentences, and then put them in the correct sequence.**

- a) The wind _____ like a knife.
- b) Buck _____ food because he is hungry.
- c) Dave _____ from many bites.
- d) Spitz _____ Buck and starts fights.
- e) Joe _____ an eye.
- f) They _____ camp at Lake Le Barge.
- g) The wolves run up to the food box and _____ down the food.



Words

1 Which of these animals do you think live in the Northland?

wolves

foxes

rabbits

lions

sheep

cows

crocodiles

geese

bears



CHAPTER 6

Buck and Spitz Fight to the End

François looks at his wounded dogs in the cold sunlight. “Ah, my friends,” he says softly, “you are still here but maybe later you will go crazy from the wolves’ bites.”

Perrault is very worried. They still have four hundred miles to go to Dawson. If the dogs go crazy, they can’t get there. The men put on the harnesses and the team starts on its way. This trail is the most difficult one they have travelled so far.

After a few days they come to the Thirty Mile River. It is very wide, and the wild water is cold and swift. They take six days to travel only thirty miles. Perrault still goes in front of the team to beat a path. The ice breaks under them many times and Perrault has to use a long pole to pull himself out of the freezing water. The temperature is fifty degrees below zero. Each time Perrault falls through the ice, the team must stop for a long time. He must build a fire to dry his clothes and to warm himself before they can go on again. Perrault is strong and brave. He takes many risks but he doesn’t get frightened easily. One time, when he falls through the ice, Dave and Buck fall through behind him. They nearly die in the icy water. Perrault builds a fire to thaw the thick ice which forms on the dogs’ fur. François and Perrault make the two dogs run round

2 Match each noun in plural form (a-d) to one of the collective names (1-4).

- a) wolves
- b) cows
- c) birds
- d) people

- 1) flock
- 2) pack
- 3) herd
- 4) crowd

and round the fire to get warm again. On another day the ice on the river breaks and the sled can't run over it. They have to go up the side of the canyon and over the cliffs. It takes along time and is very tiring for the dogs.

These thirty miles are extremely dangerous. They are all **exhausted** when they finally arrive at Hootalinqua and find solid ice again. Buck is very tired. The other dogs are in better condition but they have more experience on the trail than Buck. Perrault pushes them to go faster. They work from morning until night with very little rest. Buck's feet are not as hard as the feet of huskies. He begins to limp from the ice and cold. François **rubs** Buck's poor feet every night. He also make him little dog moccasins to protect his sore feet! This **makes** Buck feel much better.



Dolly, the dog that the wolves bit in the throat at Lake Le Barge, begins to act strangely. She howls, long and loud like the wild wolves who attacked her. She runs back and forth. The other dogs are frightened. She turns on Buck and attacks him but he doesn't want to fight her. He runs into the forest.

Dolly follows him closely. François tells Buck to turn back to the camp. He takes a stick and hits Dolly hard as she passes him. The blow hits her on the head and she dies instantly. Suddenly, Spitz takes advantage of the confusion to attack Buck. François beats Spitz with his whip.

"Spitz is a devil," he says to Perrault. "He want to kill Buck."

"Buck is a strong dog. Spitz cannot beat him, you will see," replies Perrault.

Now there is open war between Spitz and Buck. Spitz thinks that Buck wants to take his position as the leader of the team. He wants to fight Buck to the death. Buck knows now that he must fight Spitz – it is the only solution. He is not afraid. He begins to challenge Spitz more and more.

One day, Spitz is going around the camp, looking for trouble. He finds Dave sleeping under snow, digs him out and starts to fight with him. Buck tries to save Dave. He springs at Spitz and knocks him off his feet.

François hits Buck with his whip to separate the two enemies.

He does not want any of the dogs to die in the fight.

Spitz and Buck back off but they are now fierce enemies.



At last they arrive at Dawson. Dawson is a busy mining town and both men and dogs work very hard here, pulling logs and firewood up to the gold mines. Buck meets many dogs. Some are from the Southland like him, but most of the dogs are huskies. The team leaves after resting for a week in Dawson. They travel far up north on the Yukon Trail.

One day, Dave finds a snow rabbit on the trail. The rabbit escapes but all of the dogs in the team run after it. They are near another camp. Fifty dogs from that camp hear the noise and join the chase through the forest. Buck is leading the enormous pack of dogs but they cannot catch the rabbit – it's too fast for them. Suddenly Spitz leaves the pack and runs down another path. He circles the pack and rushes out in front of them, snarling at Buck. Buck knows now they have to fight and one of them will die today.

They circle each other. Their fangs drip with saliva. Their ears lie flat against their heads. They arch their backs, snarling. Buck tries to bite Spitz in the throat. Spitz defends himself with his fangs. He rips Buck's shoulder with his teeth. Buck is bleeding and he is tired. Spitz rushes at Buck again. Buck rolls over but he doesn't go down. All the dogs circle the two fighting dogs, yelping with excitement. Buck knows he mustn't lose. If he loses, he is dead. He leaps at Spitz and crushes his front leg with his enormous teeth. Spitz squeals in agony – he is helpless now. Buck kills him quickly. The pack closes in and surrounds the dead dog.



Buck and Spitz Fight to the End

Check your comprehension

3 True or false? Indicate T or F.

- 1) All the team-dogs go crazy from the wolves' bites.
- 2) François falls through the ice many times.
- 3) The thirty miles of trail to Hootalinqua are very easy.
- 4) François makes boots for Buck.
- 5) Spitz wants to fight Perrault.
- 6) The dogs chase a goose through the forest.
- 7) Buck bites Spitz on the ear.

T	F
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐

Characters

4 Answer the questions.

- 1) Who falls through the ice?
- 2) Who limps?
- 3) Who rubs Buck's feet?
- 4) Who goes crazy and howls?
- 5) Who finds a snow rabbit?
- 6) Who kills Spitz?



Words

5 Look up these verbs in a dictionary.

to dry to warm to limp to escape
to threaten to chase to surround

6 Choose verbs from exercise 5 to complete the following sentences.

- 1) Horses _____ when they hurt their legs.
- 2) The sun _____ the water from the land and makes clouds.
- 3) No one _____ from that prison – it's impossible to get out.
- 4) I can wash the dishes. Can you _____ them?
- 5) My dog _____ the neighbour's cat every day.
- 6) The hills _____ the town.

Language

7 Use the following words to complete the questions.

What When Why Which Where

- 1) _____ does the dogsled team get to Thirty Mile River?
- 2) _____ do they find solid ice again?
- 3) _____ is on Dave and Bucks' coats?
- 4) _____ animal do the dogs chase through the forest?
- 5) _____ does Spitz die?

Now answer the questions.



The story so far

I Put the sentences in the order they occur in the story.

- a) The dogs work very hard on the Thirty Mile River trail.
- b) François kills Dolly.
- c) Buck and Spitz fight, and Buck kills Spitz.
- d) Wolves come into the Lake Le Barge camp.
- e) Spitz and Buck are enemies.
- f) The dogs are all wounded after the fight with the wolves.
- g) Dave finds a snow rabbit and all the dogs chase it.

CHAPTER 7

Buck Becomes the Master Dog

The next morning, François finds that Spitz is gone. Buck has many wounds. “That Spitz is a real fighter,” says Perrault. “Yes, but Buck is the strongest of all the dogs. He fights like *two* big huskies,” says François. “Come on, Perrault, we must go on. We still have a lot of miles to travel. No more Spitz, no more trouble.”

François packs the sled and harnesses the dogs. Buck goes quietly into Spitz’s old place at the front of the team. François doesn’t see him and leads Sol-leks to Spitz’s position. He believes Sol-leks is the most experienced dog to take over as leader. Buck is angry and springs on Sol-leks, snarling fiercely.

“What’s this?” laughs François. “Look at Buck! First he kills Spitz and now he takes his job! Go away, Buck!”

But Buck doesn’t move. Eventually François has to pull him away. Sol-leks goes back to the lead position. Buck growls angrily and runs over to chase him away. Now François is really angry.

2 Put the following words in their related columns.

harness, Yukon, growl, sled, bark, bite, Dawson, plates, tent, yelp, whip, snarl, bark, firewood, cooking utensils, sniff, Hootalinqua

PLACES	EQUIPMENT FOR THE TRIP	VERBS ABOUT DOGS
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____

"I fix you now, Buck!" he cries. He picks up a heavy stick. Buck remembers the red-sweater man. He remembers The Law of the Stick. He starts to **retreat** slowly. Sol-leks goes to the lead position again, and this time Buck doesn't try to chase him away, he only snarls and growls. François calls Buck to go to the position in front of Dave. Buck retreats one or two steps and François follows him. Every time François approaches Buck, he retreats. They play this game for a long time. Then François, **exasperated**, throws the stick at Buck. But Buck isn't afraid of the stick. He wants to be the leader.

Perrault and François chase Buck for more than an hour.

They throw sticks at him, he dodges the sticks. They swear at him, he snarls and growls. He doesn't try to run away, but he makes François and Perrault understand that he wants to be the leader. If he isn't the leader, he won't pull with the other dogs.





Perrault looks at his wristwatch. He isn't happy that they are wasting so much time with Buck's game. They have to get on the trail. The two men decide to give in – Buck can be the leader. They take Sol-leks from the lead position and call to Buck. Buck laughs as dogs laugh, with his mouth open, but he doesn't come. François takes off Sol-leks' harness and puts him back in his old position, in front of the sled. The dog team is harnessed to the sled, ready to start on the trail. The lead position is empty. François calls Buck again. Again, Buck laughs and doesn't come.

Perrault watches the scene for a while. Then he says, "Throw down your stick."

François throws it down. Buck watches him, then trots into the lead position, wagging his tail. They put on his harness and the dogs begin to pull the sled. They are on the trail again.

Buck is a good leader. He is smart and quick. He wants to show the men that he is a better leader than Spitz. Dave and Sol-leks are happy that Buck is their leader. They are work dogs, and they are used to working hard. The rest of the dog team is restless because of the change of leader. They are difficult to manage but Buck must make them behave. Pike is in the position behind Buck. He likes to go slowly and Buck doesn't like this. He makes Pike pull very hard. He also has to punish Joe the first night. Joe is a mean dog. He pulls in the position next to Pike and bites him whenever he can. Buck sees Joe trying to bite Pike and springs on him. He bites him hard, and Joe cries in pain. The dogs begin to understand that Buck is their leader now and they must obey him.

After a few days the dog-team is happier and the dogs are working well with each other. François and Perrault buy two more dogs at Rink Rapids. They are called Teek and Koonah. Buck teaches them how to be good sled-dogs.

"Buck is a great dog," says François. "He is worth one thousand dollars, don't you think, Perrault?"

Perrault agrees, "That Buck, he's the best dog that ever pulled a sled on the Northland trail," he says. "He's the smartest and quickest sled-dog we ever had. Buck's the Master of all the dogs!"





Buck Becomes the Master Dog

Check your comprehension

3 Choose the correct ending for each sentence.

- 1) Spitz is gone because he's ☐ sleeping under the snow
☐ dead in the forest ☐ in California.
- 2) Buck wants to be ☐ the team leader ☐ the outside dog.
- 3) Buck doesn't go to his position until François ☐ puts his harness on ☐ throws down his stick ☐ whips him.
- 4) Buck is a ☐ smart and quick ☐ slow and stupid
☐ aggressive and mean leader.
- 5) François and Perrault buy ☐ two ☐ three ☐ five new dogs for the team at Rink Rapids.

Pictures

4 Look at the illustration on page 47. Match the names of the dogs with their pictures.

Pike Joe Buck

Words

5 Look up the meaning of these verbs in a dictionary.

chase retreat approach dodge waste
give in behave manage punish

Language

SUPERLATIVE ADJECTIVES

Buck is *the strongest* of all the dogs.
He's *the best* dog that ever pulled a sled!

6 Complete the sentences with the superlative form of the following adjectives.

high large difficult bad good

- 1) Everest is the _____ mountain in the world.
- 2) Which is the world's _____ ocean, the Pacific or the Atlantic?
- 3) The food in that restaurant is terrible! It's the _____ restaurant in town!
- 4) People say that the _____ language to learn is Chinese.
- 5) Who is the _____ tennis player in the United States?

7 Read these sentences. Then change each comparative adjective to its superlative form and rewrite the sentence.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1) Buck is a better leader than Spitz. | Buck is the best leader. |
| 2) Perrault is a better owner. | _____ |
| 3) The temperature is colder. | _____ |
| 4) The dog-team is happier. | _____ |
| 5) Buck is smarter and quicker. | _____ |

Story summary

8 Put the sentences in the correct order.

- a) François puts Sol-leks into the lead position.
- b) Buck chases Sol-leks back.
- c) François finds that Spitz is gone.
- d) Buck moves into Spitz's place in the team.
- e) François threatens Buck with a stick.
- f) Buck retreats round the camp.
- g) Buck becomes the new team leader.



The story so far

- 1 How cold do you think it is on the trail in the Yukon?
Read the first paragraph and check your hypothesis.



CHAPTER 8

The Dogsled Team Has New Owners

Buck is an excellent leader. The dogsled team makes good time now. The temperature is fifty degrees below zero and they don't stop very often – they make long runs each day to keep the dogs moving in the freezing cold. Each day for two weeks, the team travels forty miles a day.

Perrault and François stop for three days to rest in Skagway to drink with their friends there. The dogs are very popular. Many people stop to look at them. François decides to sell the dogsled team to a Scottish man who offers him a lot of money. When he takes the team to the man the next day he is very unhappy. He throws his arms around Buck and cries. Buck never sees François or Perrault again.

Now Buck must work with new dogs. They go back down the trail to Dawson. Buck works very hard – he is in the mail service on the busiest route. The dogs carry a very heavy load. They carry many letters from all over the world to the men who are looking for gold in the Northland.

Pictures

2 Look at the illustration on page 52 and identify the vocabulary from column B. Then match these items with to verbs in column A.

A

cooking

building

cutting

B

fires

the breakfast

wood for fires

Buck does not like this work but he does it well. He is proud of his work as the team leader, but every day is the same – hard and long. Each morning, the cooks in the huge camp build fires and cook breakfast. Other men harness the dogs. The team then moves down the trail until it gets dark. At night, they make camp again. Some men build fires, some cut wood. Others carry water or ice for the cooks. The dogs are fed. And so it goes on. The routine is always the same.

Buck and the other dogs look forward to dinnertime. They eat their fish and then they can relax. Some dogs in the camp are fighters. Buck has fierce battles with some of these dogs, but he wins them all and soon becomes master of all the sled-dogs in this camp too.

Buck likes to lie stretched out near the fire. He dreams of his past life.



Sometimes he thinks of Judge Miller's big house in California. He remembers the other dogs there, Ysabel and Toots, and the warm, sunny days. More often, however, Buck remembers the man in the red sweater, and poor Curly, and his fight to the death with Spitz. Sometimes Buck dreams strange dreams of another fire with another man sitting by it, in another time. This man is hairy and short but very strong. His hair is long and matted, he speaks a strange language, he is afraid of the dark. This man doesn't have any clothes, he wears animal skins. It is a strange dream – Buck doesn't understand it at all.

The dogsled team works hard carrying the heavy mail. The dogs are very weak when they reach Dawson. They need a good, long rest. But instead the men move them on down the trail only two days later. The dogs are very tired. They go slowly and the men grumble. It snows every day, which makes the dogs' work much harder. The trail is soft, and it is hard to pull the sled in the soft, new snow. The men treat the dogs well – they know that without them they can't survive. The dogs eat before the men!

The men check the dogs' feet before they go to sleep, rubbing them if they are sore. Still the dogs and the men become very tired on the difficult Yukon trail. During the entire winter they travel one thousand eight hundred miles, pulling sleds all the way.

Buck keeps strict discipline in the team. The dogs all have different personalities and different problems. Often Billee cries in his sleep.



He is very tired, he doesn't want to pull the sled any more. Joe becomes meaner each day, and Sol-leks doesn't want any other dogs near him.

But it is Dave who suffers the most. He becomes very ill. Something is wrong inside him. When they get to Cassiar Bar, he is very sick indeed. He falls down many times in his harness. The men take him off the team and put Sol-leks in his place, but Dave doesn't like this. He growls and cries – he wants to pull, even if he is sick. He is proud and doesn't want another dog to do his work. He runs next to the sled and bites Sol-leks when he can. The Scottish man has to use the whip to keep Dave away from Sol-leks, but Dave doesn't care. Finally, he falls on the trail and this time he can't get up. The men see him fall and go to him. He looks up at the men with sad eyes. They know he is going to die. He raises himself very slowly and painfully. The men understand what he wants. If he is going to die, then he wants to die on the trail. They put the harness on him and lead him to his old position. He pulls the sled proudly although he is crying in pain. He pulls the sled until evening. That night in the camp the driver makes room for him by the fire. In the morning, Dave is so weak that he can't even crawl to the sled. He lies in the snow and cries. The other dogs pull the sled away without him. A few minutes later they hear a gunshot. They stop.

Buck knows, all the dogs know, that Dave is dead.





The Dogsled Team Has New Owners

Check your comprehension

3 Answer the questions.

- 1) Why does François cry in Skagway?
- 2) Who are the dogsled team's new owners?
- 3) What are the dogsleds carrying?
- 4) What does Buck dream about?
- 5) How many miles do they travel that winter?
- 6) What happens to Dave?

Pictures

4 Look at the pictures in chapter 8. What are the dogs doing? Complete the sentences with the correct verbs.

- 1) Buck is lying near the fire.
- 2) The dogs are _____ down in the snow.
- 3) The dogs are _____ on the ground.
- 4) The dogs are _____ near the tents.
- 5) Buck is _____ about his past life.

Words

5 In his dream, Buck sees a man he doesn't know. Which of these words describe him?

tough long hair clean matted hair short hair
short tall wears animal skins
dark fair strong weak
wears a parka



6 Organise each group of words into a correct sentence.

1) stretched/near/out/fire/Buck/likes/to/lie/the

2) dog/has/Each/a/different/personality

3) dogs/Buck/pull/with/Now/must/new

4) day/It/every/snows

Now combine the underlined words to form another correct sentence.

Language

SIMPLE PRESENT - HABITS AND ROUTINES

Each morning the cooks ... *build* fires and *cook* breakfast.

At night they *make* camp again.

7 What is your typical day like? Write a paragraph, using the following verbs.

get up have breakfast
go to school finish school
do homework watch television

Story summary

8 Use these words to complete the summary.

shoot work dreams excellent lies hard
sick another works strength many

François sells the team to a man. All the dogs must work very _____ every day. They are all _____. When Buck sleeps, he _____ of another fire and _____ man. The dogsled team _____ very hard and Dave becomes very _____. He falls _____ times on the trail. Soon, he has no more _____. He _____ in the snow and can't _____. He is so sick, the dogs' owners have to _____ him.



Words

1 In the text on page 56, find words from this list that describe the town of Skagway.

busy full empty enormous large
new old small hot cold



CHAPTER 9

Buck Gets New Owners Again

It takes them thirty days to get back to Skagway. They are all very, very tired. Buck used to weigh 63 kilos, now he weighs only 52 kilos. Many of the other dogs are much thinner than Buck, and they are all in poor condition. Pike's front leg is hurt and he is limping. Sol-leks is limping too. Dub's shoulder is hurt.

All of the dogs have very sore feet, little energy, and no spirit left to work. They are exhausted from the many weeks of pulling the sled. Every muscle aches, every bone aches too. In five months, they have travelled an incredible two thousand five hundred miles!

The dogs and the drivers expect a long rest at Skagway, but the government mail service has other ideas. It is a large, busy town and a lot of miners live there, all of them with sweethearts, wives and relatives back home. The amount of mail in Skagway is enormous. There are official orders to deliver this mail as soon as possible. The mail carriers need dogs to take the sleds with the mail down the trail, but Buck's team is too tired – they aren't strong enough now.

Pictures

- 2 Look at the sled in the picture below. Then look at Perrault's sled in chapter 4. Write about the differences that you see.



Fresh dogs from Hudson Bay replace Buck's team. Three days pass. Buck and the others are still very weak. After another four days, two Americans buy the team and the harness for a very low price. Buck sees them give the Scottish man money, and then the mail carriers are no longer part of his life. They are gone just like Judge Miller, François and Perrault, and the man in the red sweater.

These men are called Hal and Charles. Charles is middle-aged with light, watery eyes. He has a long, thick mustache. Hal is about 20 years old. He carries a Colt revolver and a hunting knife. Buck feels that these men are not like the other men in the Northland, somehow they are different.

The new owners' tent is not very nice. It is dirty and disorganised. There is also a woman there. Her name is Mercedes. She is Charles's wife and Hal's sister. Buck watches them take down the tent and load the sled. They are not good at this — the tent is not folded properly, and the tin dishes are packed but not washed. Mercedes talks all the time and gives advice to the two men. None of them

knows how to pack a sled. The men put the things on the front and Mercedes tells them to put them on the back. Nothing is organised. The sled looks a mess.

Three men come out of the saloon and laugh at the sled. “Your load is too heavy,” says one man. “It’s none of my business, but I don’t think you should take that tent.”

Mercedes cries, “No! I need to have a tent!”

“It’s spring now, Ma’am,” replies the man. “The weather isn’t too cold. It’s warm enough to sleep under the stars.”



Mercedes shakes her head. "No," she repeats.

Hal and Charles put the tent onto the sled with all their other equipment.

"Do you think your sled will ride?" asks one of the men.

"Yes," says Charles coldly. He does not like this man or his questions.

"Oh," replies the man. "It seems a bit heavy to me."

The sled is very heavy. Buck looks at the sled. He knows it is going to be hard to move.

Charles tightens the straps that hold the equipment on the sled. He harnesses the dogs. They are ready to go. Hal grabs his whip and swings it at the dogs.

"Mush!" he shouts. "Mush! Mush!"





Buck Gets New Owners Again

Check your comprehension

3 True or false? Indicate T or F.

- 1) The team reaches Skagway quickly.
- 2) All the dogs are very fat now.
- 3) The Scottish man sells the team to Perrault.
- 4) The new owners' tent is organised and clean.
- 5) The new owners don't know very much about the Northland.

T	F
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐

Now rewrite the false sentences with the correct information.

Words

4 Follow the trail of words. Underline the adverbs.



THE DOG STRAVELS SLOWLY THROUGH THE VERY THICK SNOW. THE SLED IS EXTREMELY HEAVY AND IT SNOWS CONSTANTLY. THEN THE NEW OWNERS TREAT THE DOG BADLY. THEY DON'T KNOW VERY MUCH ABOUT TRAVELLING ON THE TRAIL.



5 Look through chapter 9 to find what each of the following numbers refer to.

63 _____
52 _____
2500 _____
20 _____

6 Change these adjectives to adverbs.

quick	terrible
easy	clear
quiet	loud

Then write a sentence with each adverb.

Language

7 Complete the sentences with **too** or **enough**.

- Buck thinks the tent is _____ dirty.
- There are _____ many things on the sled.
- Buck usually weighs 63 kilos. Now he weighs 52 kilos. He is _____ thin.
- The two men can't pack the sled well. They are not organised _____.
- The two men and the woman don't have _____ experience to travel in the Northland.

TOO/ENOUGH

Buck's team is too tired
They aren't strong enough now.

Story summary

8 Complete the paragraph with the appropriate words.

It takes _____ days to get back to Skagway. The dogs are very _____ when they reach the town. The dogs and their drivers expect a long _____ in Skagway, but the government orders the mail carriers to _____ the mail. They must _____ immediately. _____ dogs from Hudson Bay replace Buck's team. Two American men buy Buck's team.



Characters

I Match each character to his or her description.

Mercedes

is twenty years old.

Hal

is middle-aged with a long mustache.

Charles

is Hal's sister and Charles' wife.

CHAPTER 10

The Whip of the New Owners

The dogs work hard to move the sled, but they can't — it's too heavy.

"Lazy brutes!" shouts Hal and begins to whip the dogs. Mercedes cries, "Oh, Hal! Don't hit the dogs!" She grabs the whip from Hal, "You must promise not to hurt the dogs. I won't go if you hurt them."

"You don't know anything about dogs!" her brother says. "These dogs are lazy. You have to whip them to make them move. That is a dog's way. Ask anyone. Ask those men over there."

Mercedes looks at the men. She is sad for the dogs. One of the men says, "The dogs are very weak. They're still tired from their last trip, they need a long rest."

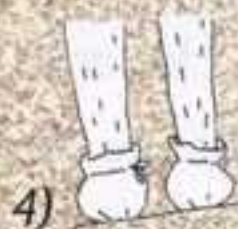
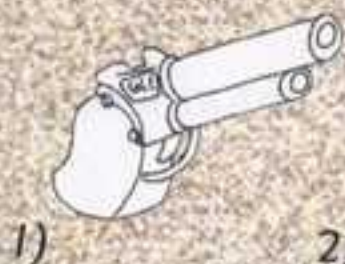
"Rest? Hah!" says Hal.

Mercedes cries for the dogs, but she loves her brother and she is proud. She says to Hal, "Never mind that man. You are the driver of this sled. You do your best."

Words

2 Who owns these things? Match each object with its owner.

- a) Mercedes
- b) Hal
- c) Charles
- d) Buck



3 Now use the following example as a model for writing a sentence about each object.

Example: They are Mercedes' clothes. They're hers.

Hal takes the whip and hits the dogs. The dogs try hard to pull the sled. They dig their feet into the packed snow. They pull with all their strength. The sled is stuck like an anchor, it won't move. The dogs stand still and pant. Hal continues to hit the dogs with the whip. Mercedes is crying. She goes to Buck and puts her arms around his neck.

"You poor animals!" she cries. "Why won't you pull the sled? Hal whips you when you don't pull. Please, please pull the sled."

Buck does not like Mercedes. He is tired and angry. One of the other men speaks up. "You must help the dogs. The runners of that sled are frozen to the snow. Break the runners free."

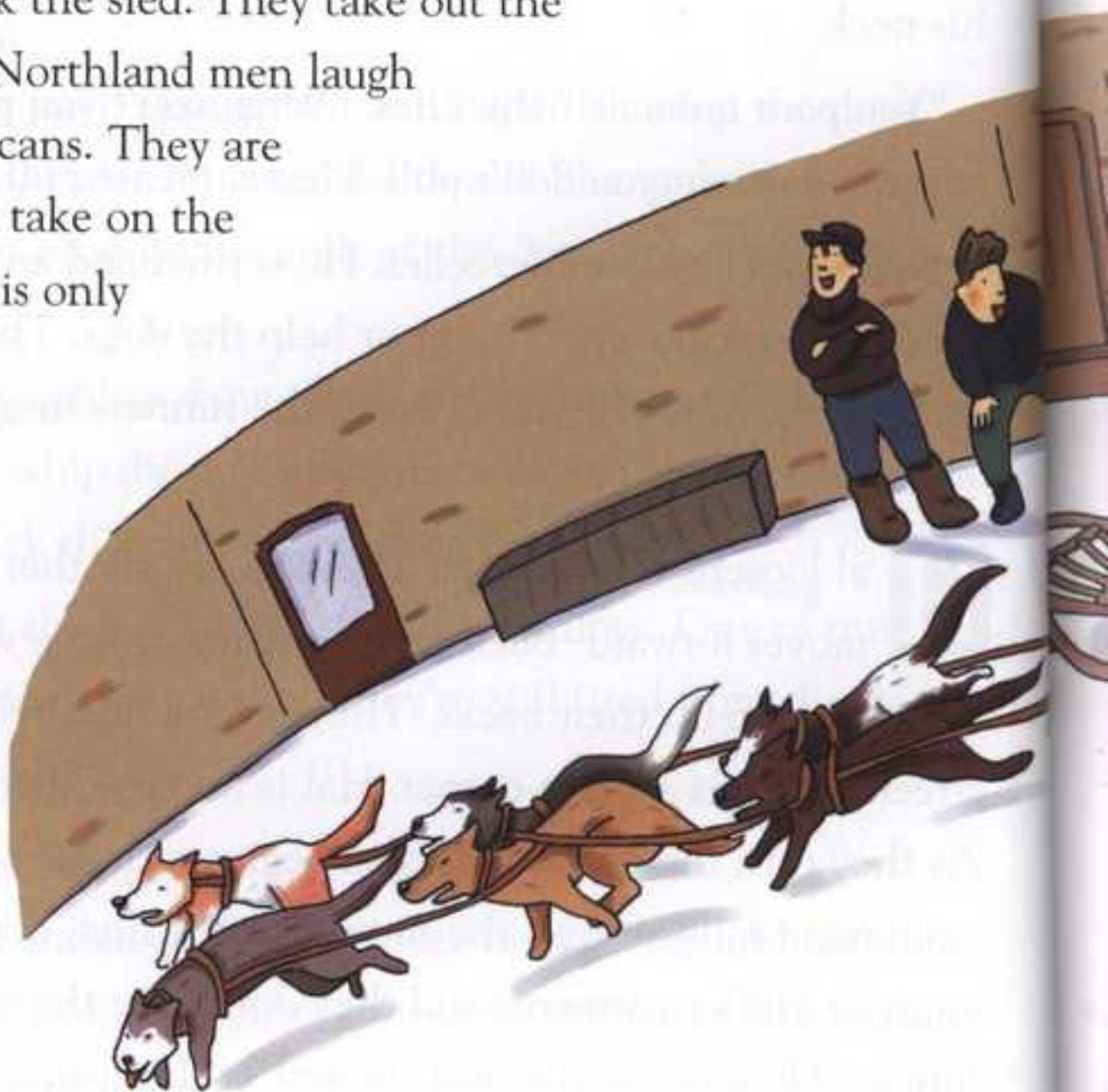
Hal loosens the runners. The dogs try another time. The sled moves forward. Buck and his team struggle with the sled. They feel the whip on their backs. They go one hundred yards to the main street. There is a sharp corner. Hal is not an experienced sled driver. As they turn the corner, the sled begins to lean over and all the equipment falls off into the snow. But the dogs don't stop. They are angry at Hal's treatment, and they don't like the whip. Buck is furious. He starts to run and the rest of the team follows him.

Hal cries, "Whoa! Whoa!" but the dogs won't stop. He tries to run after them but the sled trips him up and he falls in the snow. The dogs run on through the centre of Skagway, pulling the empty sled behind them. Eventually some kind citizens of Skagway catch the dogs. Others gather up the equipment from the street. They tell Charles and Hal they must lighten the sled's load.



They also tell them to get more dogs for the team. Hal and Charles listen, but they are stubborn men. They put the tent on again and begin to repack the sled. They take out the canned food. The Northland men laugh when they see the cans. They are much too heavy to take on the trail. Canned food is only for kings in the Northland!

One citizen tells them, "Take out all your canned food and throw away that tent. Throw away your dishes, too. Who is going to wash them? Do you



think you're going to a hotel? The sled won't ride with all that weight."

Hal and Charles take many of these things off the sled. Mercedes cries when they take off her bags of clothes. She is angry. She takes Hal and Charles' clothes off as well.

Hal and Charles buy six new "outside" dogs. The "outside" dogs are not experienced at pulling a sled. One dog is a Newfoundland. Then there are three short-haired Pointers and two mongrels. They are big dogs, but they are not like huskies who are born to pull. Now there are fourteen dogs in the team.





The Whip of the New Owners

Check your comprehension

4 Who said it? Match each sentence to one of the characters.

a) "Lazy brutes! I'm going to show them!"

b) "The dogs are very weak... They need a long rest."

c) "You poor animals! Why don't you pull the sled?"

d) "Throw away your tent."

- 1) A Northland man
- 2) Hal
- 3) A citizen of Skagway
- 4) Mercedes

5 Choose the adjectives that describe the character.

1) Mercedes

a) selfish b) inexperienced c) calm d) kind

2) Hal

a) stubborn b) experienced c) young d) violent

3) The men in Skagway

a) wise b) helpful c) experienced d) funny

Words

6 Look up the meaning of these verbs in a dictionary.

to load to lighten to repack to remove
to put on to get rid of to throw away

Language

7 Write comparative sentences. Use the form: **as + adjective + as**.

Example: The dogs are as weak as puppies.

1) dogs/weak/puppies

2) Mercedes/cry/loud/baby

3) sled/heavy/ship

4) that man/strong/horse

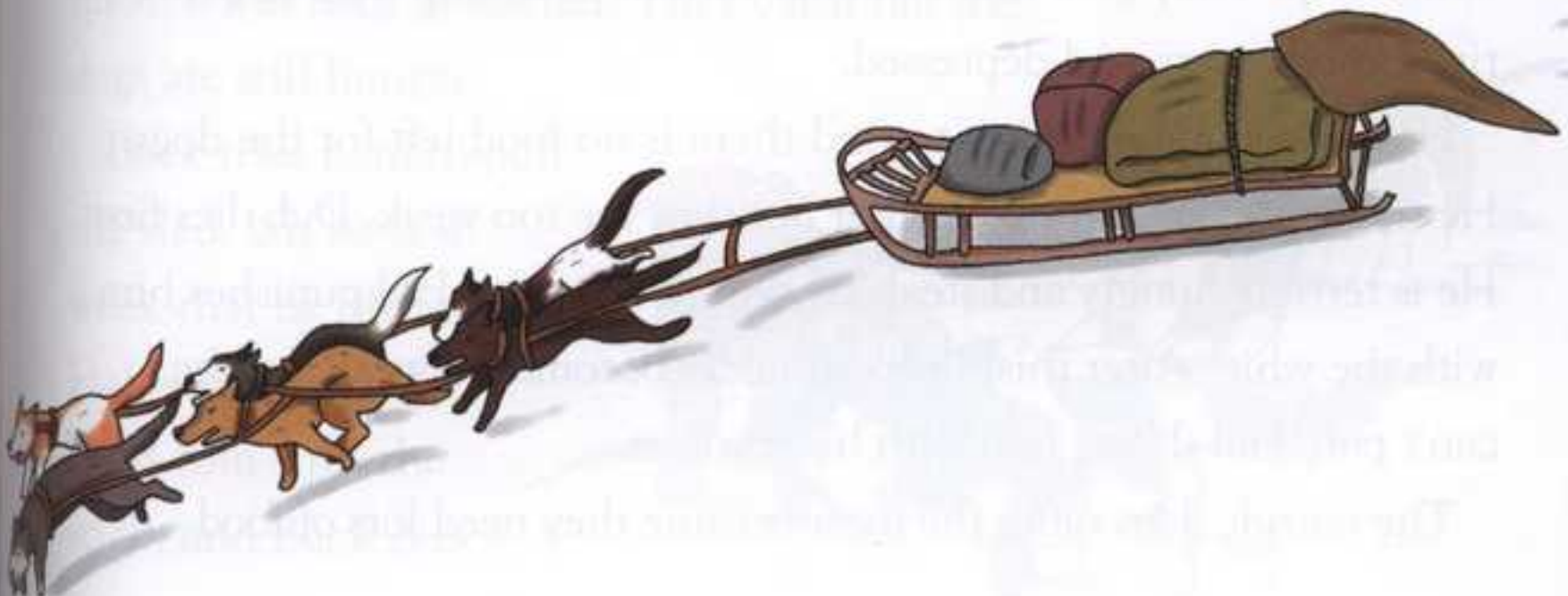
5) my little sister/tall/me

Buck's muscles are as strong as iron.

Story summary

8 Put the sentences in the correct order.

- Hal and Charles remove many of the things from the sled.
- Hal whips the dogs to make them pull harder.
- The citizens of Skagway give them advice about packing the sled.
- The new owners pack the sled badly.
- The dogs can't pull the sled because it's too heavy.
- The sled falls over and the dogs run away.
- They buy six new outside dogs.





The story so far

1 What can you remember from the story so far?

Answer the questions.

- 1) Where was Buck born?
- 2) Who sold Buck to the red-sweater man?
- 3) Who was Curly?
- 4) Which dog was Buck's enemy?
- 5) Where was the dog team when wolves came into their camp?
- 6) Which dog died from the wolves' bites?
- 7) Who bought the dogsled team from the Scottish man in Skagway?

CHAPTER 11

Tragedy on the Trail

Buck tries to teach the outside dogs to pull, but they don't learn easily. They don't like the harness or the snow, and they have no spirit. They also don't like Hal's harsh treatment of them.

Buck knows that his old team mates are doing most of the work. They are all too tired to be excited about going on the trail again.

Their new owners don't know anything about pulling sleds or travelling the trail. They are lazy and can't even pitch a tent. They don't make good time; some days the team doesn't even travel ten miles. The food the men brought for the dogs is not enough for the whole trip. They give them smaller rations each day. The dogs are tired and hungry and depressed.

Hal wakes one morning to find there is no food left for the dogs. He tries to make them go further but they are too weak. Dub dies first. He is terribly hungry and steals food from the men. Hal punishes him with the whip. After this, Dub's shoulder becomes so weak that he can't pull. Hal shoots him with his revolver.

The outside dogs suffer the most because they need lots of food –

Pictures

2 Look at the pictures in chapter 11. Which of these problems do the dogs encounter with their new masters?

- a) there's no food left
- b) the ice on the trail thaws
- c) they lose the trail
- d) some dogs die of exhaustion
- e) wolves come into the camp
- f) Indians attack them

they can't live on a husky's ration. The Newfoundland dog dies from hunger and exhaustion, then the three Pointers, and finally the two mongrels.

Charles, Hal and Mercedes are tired and afraid. They imagined the Northland was a glamorous, romantic place, but it is not. It is harsh and primitive and unforgiving. They are tired and afraid. They become very short-tempered and argue a lot. They feel so sorry for themselves that they don't think of the dogs at all. When Hal is angry with his companions, he beats the dogs with a stick.

At Five Fingers, an Indian offers to give them some horse meat for the dogs to eat, in exchange for Hal's revolver. It is not good meat, it's as hard as leather. They eat it but the dogs are still hungry.

Buck tries hard to pull the sled, but he is so weak that he often falls. Hal whips him and beats him with the stick, and Buck gets



up and pulls again. He is not a healthy dog now. His fur is stiff and dull and matted with blood. His muscles are gone. He is very, very thin.

There are only seven dogs left and all of them look like skeletons. They are miserable and tired. They have no spirit. When the sled stops, the dogs fall where they stand – they can't move. Hal brings out the whip and hits them until eventually they rise painfully and stagger forwards once more.

One day, Billee falls down and can't get up again. Hal doesn't have his revolver anymore so he takes an axe and hits Billee on the head. Billee dies immediately. Hal takes Billee's body and throws it to one side of the trail. Buck and his teammates watch in fear. They know Hal may do the same to them too. The next day, Koonah dies. Now there are only five dogs left.

The spring is coming and the cold winter snows are melting, but the miserable little group doesn't even notice. Flowers are appearing everywhere and animals are coming out from their winter homes. Squirrels chatter, birds sing. The days are getting longer and the air is sweet. They arrive at a camp on the White River. It is John Thornton's camp. John Thornton sits on a log and watches them coming. Mercedes sits down near John Thornton and immediately begins to cry. Charles slowly sits down too. The dogs drop in their tracks. Everyone is exhausted.

Hal begins to speak. John Thornton listens in silence.

"We need to stop here. The trail is thawing, the ice is melting. It's too dangerous to go on," he says. John Thornton does not reply. "Many people said that it was impossible to get to White River at this time of year," he continues proudly, "but here we are!"



"Their advice was right, boy," replies Thornton quietly. "The trail is dangerous. Only fools travel this far. There is nothing here, and there isn't enough gold in Alaska to make *me* travel any further."

Hal is angry. "Well, then we'll have to go back to Dawson again," he says defiantly. He stands up and takes his whip. "Get up, Buck! Hi! Get up! Mush! Mush!"

The team of dogs can't get up. Hal whips the dogs furiously. Thornton watches him, his face like stone. Sol-leks struggles to his feet, Teek follows. Joe gets up next, crying with pain. Pike tries to rise. He falls twice, then lies still on the snow. Buck doesn't try to get up. Hal whips him many times, but he doesn't get up. Hal gets a big stick and beats him, but he doesn't get up. Thornton can stand no more. He springs at Hal and knocks him to the ground. Mercedes screams.

"If you strike that dog again," shouts John Thornton, shaking with anger, "I will kill you!"

"It's *my* dog!" replies Hal wiping the blood from his mouth. "Get out of my way!"

Thornton cuts Buck free from the harness. Hal tells Charles and Mercedes to harness the other four dogs and turn them around. They stagger away, back down the trail, the poor dogs whimpering in pain.

John Thornton feels Buck for broken bones but there aren't any. He watches the sled go slowly down the trail. After a few minutes Buck hears Mercedes scream. The ice on the trail is melting and it can't support the heavy sled any more. All of them, humans and dogs, fall through into the icy water below. They are never seen again. Only Buck is safe with his new master.





Tragedy on the Trail

Check your comprehension

3 True or false? Indicate T or F.

- 1) The new dogs work very hard.
- 2) The team travels fast with the new owners.
- 3) There isn't enough food for the dogs.
- 4) When they arrive at Thornton's camp, there are only seven dogs left.
- 5) The sled falls through the ice because the weather is very cold.
- 6) Buck falls through the ice.

T	F
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐

Characters

4 Match each character to his or her description.

- a) Thornton
- b) Mercedes
- c) Billee
- d) Dub
- e) Buck
- f) Hal

- 1) is the leader of the sled team.
- 2) falls and can't get up.
- 3) dies first.
- 4) is lazy and cries a lot.
- 5) lives at White River camp.
- 6) beats the dogs with a stick.

Words

5 Choose the words that best describe John Thornton.

fair lazy silent calm
strong experienced mean compassionate
dirty tired young good

6 How is Buck doing at this point in the story?
Complete the description with words from chapter 11.

His fur is _____ and not _____. It is matted with _____. His muscles are _____. He is very _____. He is tired and _____.

7 Match each verb in the right-hand column to an animal in the left-hand column.

dogs	chatter
squirrels	howls
birds	growls
bear	bark
wolf	sing

Language

8 Complete each sentence with the present continuous form of the verb in parentheses.

PRESENT CONTINUOUS

The cold winter snows *are melting*.
Flowers *are appearing* everywhere.

- 1) The price of food _____ in Europe this month. (rise)
- 2) What _____ in the kitchen at this time of night? (do / you)
- 3) Do you know that man? He _____ at you strangely. (look)
- 4) Elizabeth usually works on Fridays, but today she _____ tennis. (play)
- 5) I'll be home about 9 o'clock tonight - I _____ late. (work)



Words

1 Look up the meaning of each noun in a dictionary.

love	compassion	kindness
hate	cruelty	jealousy



CHAPTER 12

For the Love of a Man

John Thornton is a kind man. He lets Buck rest for many days. Gradually Buck's wounds heal, his muscles get stronger, and he gets fatter. Thornton has two other dogs. Skeet is a little Irish Setter who takes care of Buck. Nig is a huge, black, friendly dog. Thornton's dogs like Buck a lot. They are not jealous of him. As Buck gets better, the dogs play many games together. For the first time since he came to the Northland, Buck feels truly happy.

Thornton is a good master. Many men think dogs are working machines, but Thornton treats them like his children. He talks to them, he strokes them, he takes them for long walks in the forest. Buck loves to feel Thornton's hand on his back — he loves his new master. He lies next to him for hours, looking at his face. He studies his emotions and moods, he follows him everywhere. He doesn't want Thornton to pass out of his life like all his other masters — he adores him. "Buck," says Thornton, smiling, "You are almost human."

2 Match the verbs to the pictures on this page.

follow

play

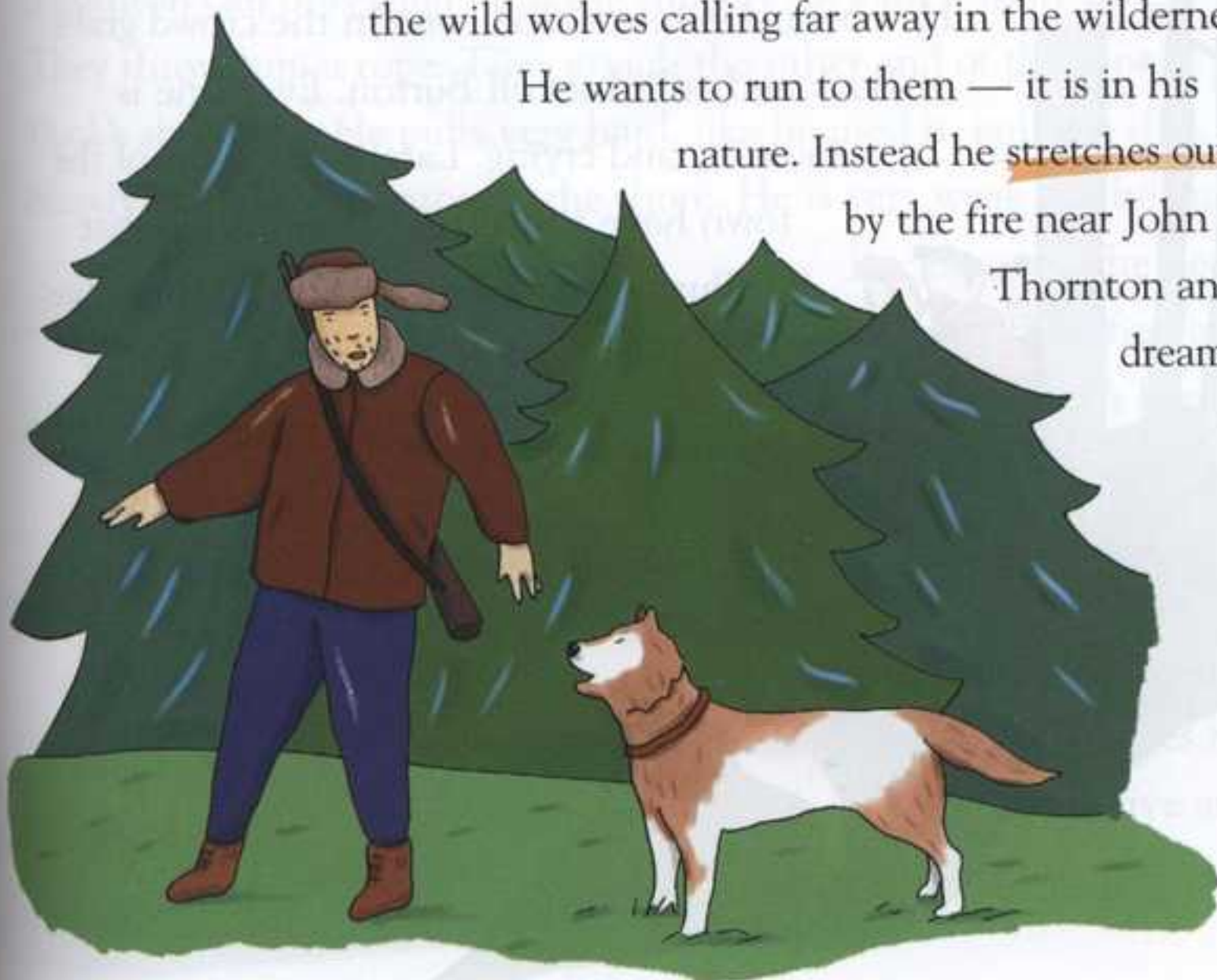
stroke

stretch out



But this domestic life is hard for Buck. He is a primitive dog now, a dog of the Northland, rugged, strong and wild. His face is covered in scars — he is a fighter and has won many battles. Skeet and Nig never fight. They are dogs of the Southland, gentle and civilised. Buck sits quietly next to Thornton. He thinks about this comfortable life he has now and he remembers the past. He remembers the fights with dogs and wolves and the hard work of the trails. Often he hears the wild wolves calling far away in the wilderness.

He wants to run to them — it is in his nature. Instead he stretches out by the fire near John Thornton and dreams.



Buck obeys his master in everything. One day, Thornton and his friends Pete and Hans are sitting on a high mountain ledge. Thornton jokes, "Jump, Buck! Go on, jump!"

The ledge is more than three hundred feet high, but Buck jumps because his master tells him to. Thornton grabs him just in time and pulls him to safety.

"Whew! That is a very loyal dog," says Pete.

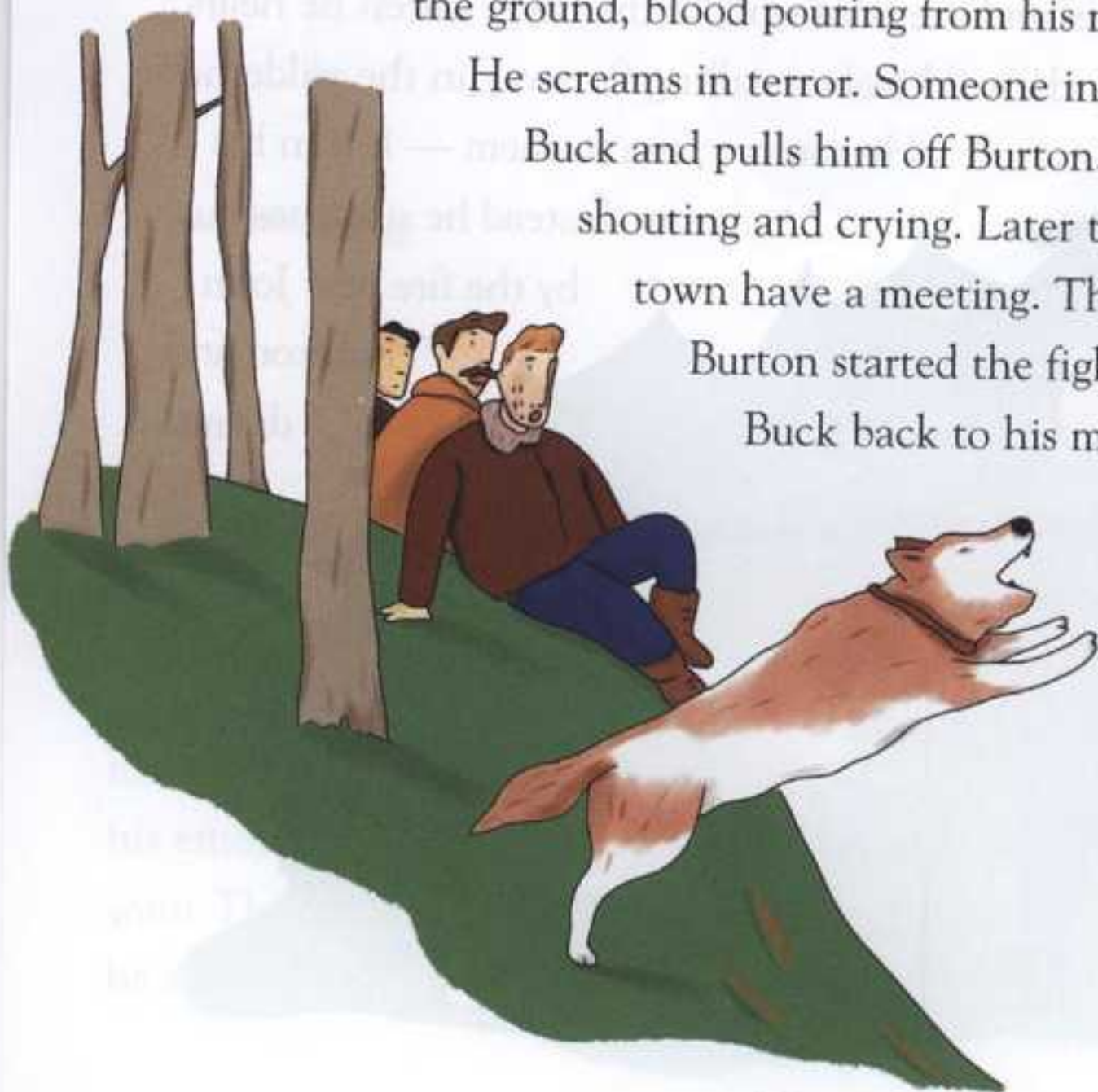
"Buck's loyalty is frightening," replies Thornton. "It's splendid but it's frightening too."

"Anyone who tries to hurt you will be in big trouble," jokes Pete. "Buck's teeth are very sharp!"

One day a man *does* try to hurt John Thornton. "Black" Burton picks a fight with Buck's master in a bar in the town. He hits Thornton and he falls down. Buck is watching and begins to growl furiously. He springs on Burton and tears at his throat. Burton falls to the ground, blood pouring from his neck.

He screams in terror. Someone in the crowd grabs Buck and pulls him off Burton. Everyone is shouting and crying. Later the miners of the town have a meeting. They decide that Burton started the fight, and they give Buck back to his master. But now

everyone knows what a fierce, loyal dog Buck is. Soon he is famous all over Alaska.



Later in the year, Buck saves Thornton's life again. Hans, Pete and Thornton are canoeing down Forty-Mile Creek. Hans and Pete go ashore, but Thornton stays in the canoe. Buck is on the shore. He is worried for his master.

Suddenly, the strong current tips the little canoe over and carries Thornton away downstream. The water is wild here. No one can swim against this current. Buck jumps into the water and swims after his master. The furious water pushes him back but he **keeps** going on. He grabs Thornton's clothes with his teeth. He uses his great strength to slowly swim with Thornton in the wild water towards the shore. But the current is too strong, even for Buck, and Thornton's body hits the rocks. Thornton knows that they can't get to the shore. He grabs onto a slippery rock.

"Go, Buck, go!" shouts Thornton. Buck hears the command and swims towards the shore. Pete and Hans pull him out of the water. Then they run down the shore to help Thornton. They know that Thornton can only hold onto the slippery rock for a short time. They throw him a rope. They attach the other end of the rope to Buck's shoulders. He pulls very hard, like he used to pull the sled. Slowly he pulls Thornton to the shore. He is very weak but he grabs

Buck around the neck and hugs him fiercely. Some of Buck's bones are broken after this terrible adventure and he is very sick for many days. But his great love for Thornton gives him the will to survive and saves his life.





For the Love of a Man

Check your comprehension

3 True or false? Indicate T or F.

- | | T | F |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) Thornton is cruel to his dogs. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 2) Buck loves Thornton very much. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 3) Buck forgets his difficult past life completely. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 4) Thornton picks a fight with a man in the saloon bar. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 5) Thornton falls into the lake. | ☐ | ☐ |
| 6) Buck saves Thornton's life. | ☐ | ☐ |

Now rewrite the false sentences with the correct information.

Pictures

4 Look at the picture on page 76 and answer the questions.

1) Where are the men sitting?

2) What does Thornton tell Buck to do?

3) What does Buck do?

4) What happens to Buck?

Words

5 Which words describe the Northland? Which describe the Southland? Write them in the appropriate space.

primitive
civilised

gentle
cold

warm
rugged

harsh
wild

NORTHLAND	SOUTHLAND

6 Look up these words in a dictionary.

current
fight

scars
pours

bones

7 Now use the words from exercise 6 to complete the sentences.

- 1) Buck's face is covered in _____.
- 2) Black Burton wants to _____ with John Thornton in the bar.
- 3) The _____ is very strong and carries John Thornton down the river.
- 4) Some of Buck's _____ are broken and he is sick for days.
- 5) Blood _____ from Burton's throat when Buck bites him.

Story summary

8 Put the sentences in the correct order.

- a) No one can swim against the current.
- b) Buck jumps into the water.
- c) Buck pulls his master to the shore.
- d) Thornton grabs a slippery rock.
- e) The current turns the canoe over and Thornton falls out.
- f) He grabs Thornton's clothes with his teeth.
- g) Pete and Hans throw a rope to Thornton and attach it to Buck.
- h) The current is too strong for Buck to swim with Thornton.



Words

1 Look at the pictures in this chapter, read the following words, and try to guess what happens next.

Thornton
sack

Buck
bet

Eldorado
dollars

Matthewson
gold



CHAPTER 13

Thornton Wins a Bet

That winter, another thing happens which makes Buck famous all over the Northland. John Thornton is at the Eldorado Saloon. The men there are boasting about their favourite dogs. They are trying to find a dog that is better than Buck, but Thornton always defends his dog. One man says that his dog can pull two hundred and twenty kilos, another man boasts that his dog can pull two hundred and seventy kilos, a third man says his dog can pull three hundred and twenty kilos!

“Pooh! Pooh!” says John Thornton. “That’s nothing. Buck can pull four hundred and fifty!”

“Oh yeah?” says Matthewson, a man who says his dog can pull three hundred and twenty kilos. “And can he pull that load for a hundred metres?”

“Sure he can,” replies Thornton proudly.

“Well,” says Matthewson loudly, he wants everyone to hear him, “I have one thousand dollars here. I say that your dog *can’t* pull four hundred and fifty kilos.” He slams a sack of gold the size of a salami on the bar counter.

“I have a sled outside with twenty twenty-five kilo sacks of flour loaded on it,” continues Matthewson. “Let’s go and see.”

2 Rewrite the numbers as words.

365 kgs

\$2,500

\$300,000

48 kgs

\$1,000,000

No one speaks for a moment. Thornton feels a bit worried. He isn't really sure that Buck can pull this weight. Four hundred and fifty kilos! He knows that Buck is strong, but now he has to bet money on his hasty words. All the men are looking at Thornton, waiting for him to speak. He doesn't have one thousand dollars, nor does Hans or Pete! He looks from face to face. He doesn't know what to say. Then he sees Jim O'Brien, his old friend.

"Do you have a thousand dollars?" he whispers to him.

"Sure, my friend," says O'Brien. He puts his sack of gold next to Matthewson's. "I don't know if Buck can do this, but I sure hope he can," says O'Brien to Thornton.

Everyone in the bar goes outside to watch Buck pull the sled. Other people come to watch too. There are several hundred people in the street. Many of them put bets on Buck. Some think he can pull the sled, others don't.

The weather is very cold, about 60 degrees below zero. The sled's runners are frozen to the ground. Thornton breaks



the runners free from the ice. He looks at the sled. He thinks to himself, "I don't think that Buck can do this."

Matthewson sees the situation is getting worse for Thornton.

"I want to bet another thousand dollars!" he shouts defiantly.

Thornton is very nervous but he has a fighting spirit. He calls Hans and Pete to him. They have only two hundred dollars together but they put the money next to Matthewson's.

Buck is harnessed to the sled. He knows that he must do a great thing for his master. Everyone talks about how good Buck looks. His coat is shiny and healthy, his muscles are strong.

"Gad, sir! Gad, sir!" says one man. "I'll pay eight hundred dollars for your dog!"

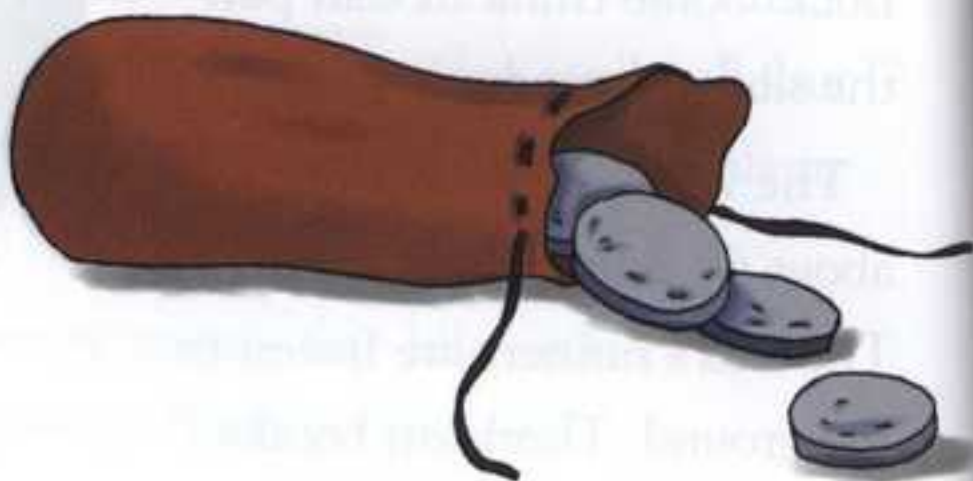
Thornton shakes his head and walks to Buck's side. The crowd becomes silent. He talks to him quietly. "As you love me, Buck. As you love me," he whispers.

As Thornton gets to his feet, Buck grabs his mitten between his teeth, looks up into his eyes, and then slowly releases it. This is Buck's answer. He cannot speak, but he can still show his great love.

Thornton steps back. "Now, Buck!" he shouts.

Buck **tightens** the harness and swings to the right. The sled moves slightly. Buck swings to the left. The sled moves more. The men in the crowd hold their breath.

"Now, mush!" shouts Thornton. Buck throws all his weight forward. He uses all his strength to pull the sled. His **chest** is low over the ground. He begins to



move the sled, inch by inch. Soon the sled is moving faster, then Buck is pulling it very slowly but smoothly. Thornton runs behind and encourages his dog. Buck pulls and pulls. The men cheer louder and louder. Soon, the crowd shouts with happiness! Buck is past the one hundred metre mark! The people in the crowd throw their hats and mittens into the air.

Thornton falls on his knees beside Buck. He grabs his head and hugs him.

“Gad, sir! Gad, sir!” says the man. “I’ll give you one thousand dollars for this dog!”

Thornton rises to his feet. His eyes are wet with tears. “No, sir,” he says. “He is not for sale. He is my dog forever.”

Buck looks at Thornton and bites his mitten again. They are best friends.





Thornton Wins a Bet

Check your comprehension

3 Put the sentences in the correct order.

- Buck is harnessed to the sled.
- Thornton bets Matthewson that Buck can pull 450 kilos.
- Thornton goes to the Eldorado Saloon.
- Matthewson offers to use his sled with sacks of flour on it.
- Buck pulls the sled 100 metres.
- The crowd shouts with happiness.
- One man wants to buy Buck for \$800.

Words

4 Look through chapter 13 to find what each of the following numbers refer to.

Example: 220 = The number of kilos that the man in the bar says his dog can pull.

450 = _____

1,000 = _____

60 = _____

100 = _____

Characters

5 Which of these adjectives describe Matthewson?

- | | |
|----------|---------|
| kind | modest |
| quiet | defiant |
| loud | nice |
| boastful | rich |
| nasty | poor |

Language

6 Complete the sentences with the appropriate possessive adjectives.

- 1) Is this _____ hat? I found it on the floor.
- 2) Poor Dave. He crashed _____ new car yesterday.
- 3) Katie left _____ boyfriend at the party.
- 4) I went to see the Smiths today. _____ new house is really beautiful.
- 5) Excuse me, is _____ cat in your garden? We can't find it.
- 6) The castle was very old. _____ walls were all broken and the roof was gone.

POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES

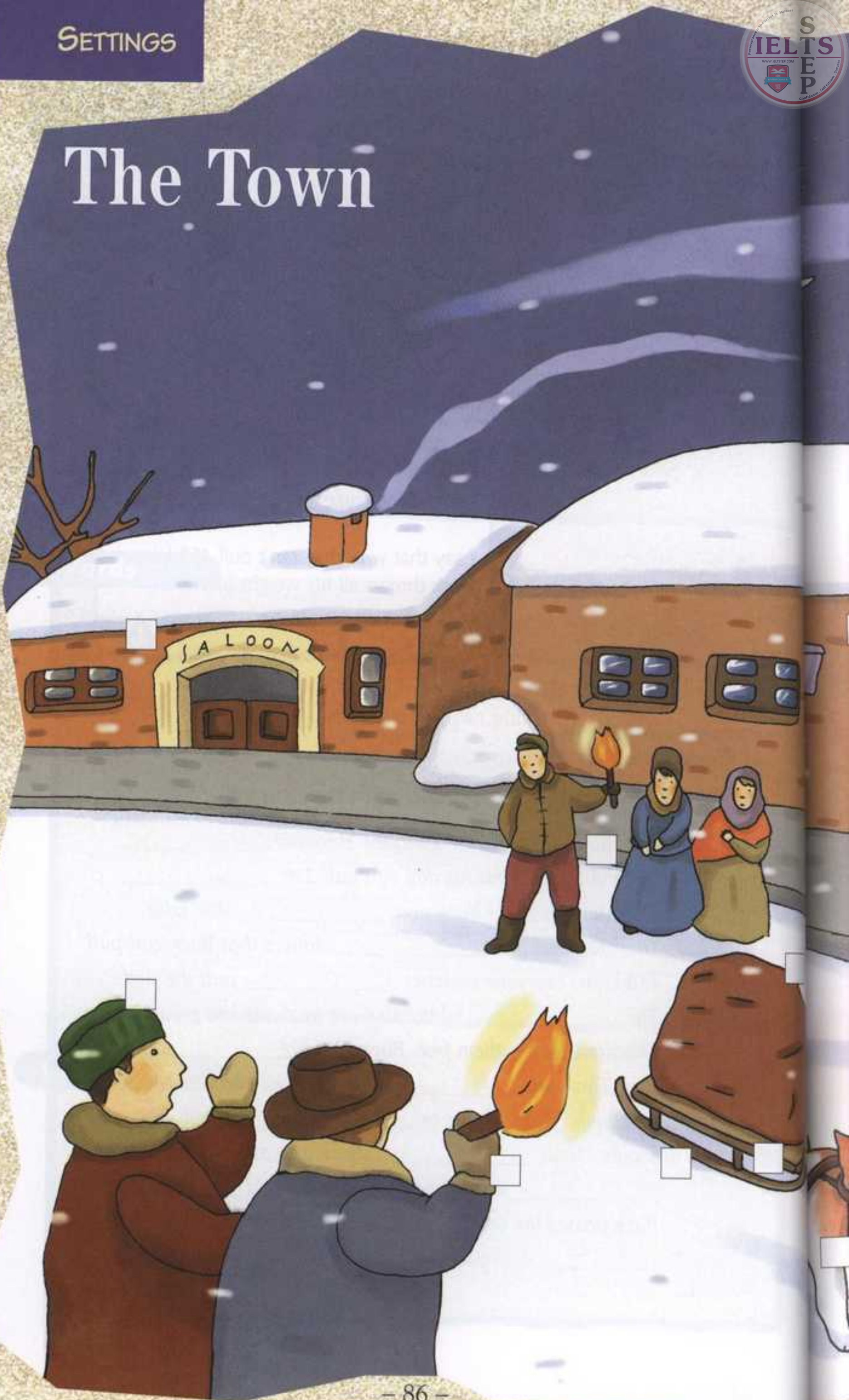
I say that *your* dog can't pull 450 kilos.
Buck throws all *his* weight forward.

Story summary

7 Complete the paragraph with the correct words.

Thornton, Hal and Pete go to the Eldorado _____.
One man brags that his dog can pull 320 _____.
Thornton says that Buck can _____ 450 kilos.
Thornton bets one _____ dollars that Buck can pull 450 kilos. Everyone watches _____ pull the sled.
The _____ of the sled are frozen to the ground.
Thornton breaks them free. Buck is _____ to the sled. Thornton _____ into Buck's ear, "As you love me, Buck." Buck begins to _____ the sled. Thornton shouts, "Now, _____!" Buck uses all his _____ to pull the sled. He pulls and _____.
Buck passes the one _____ mark! The men _____ louder and louder.

The Town



Look carefully at the illustration, and match the words to the parts of the picture.

- | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| a) sled | d) saloon | g) mittens | i) crowd |
| b) sacks | e) runners | h) hat | j) stores |
| c) harness | f) snow | | |





Pictures

1 Look at the picture on page 89. In what season does this scene take place?

spring

summer

autumn

winter

CHAPTER 14

The Sound of the Call

Thornton, Hans and Pete decide to try and find “The Lost Gold Mine”. The legend about this mine is very old. It says many men look for it, few find it, and more die trying to find it. Near the mine they say there is also an ancient cabin called “The Lost Cabin”. The story says that there is a lot of gold there but that no ordinary man can take it. Thornton, Hans, Pete, Buck and a team of dogs go to find this place.

They travel seventy miles up the Yukon trail. Thornton is not afraid of the wilderness and Buck loves this life. For weeks, the team travels through the harsh Northland. Two months pass. They travel through places that few men ever see. In the autumn, they come to a strange, unknown country full of lakes. It is sad and silent, with few signs of life. They travel on through the winter. Finally, at the end of the winter, they find a cabin in a very remote place. They go inside but all they find are old, rotten blankets, some broken furniture and a gun.

The spring comes and still they don't find the Lost Cabin, but one day they do find a stream in a valley with a lot of gold in it.

2 Now look at the picture on page 90. Where do the two men find themselves?

- a) The Lost Gold Mine
- b) The Lost Cabin
- c) The forest

3 Finally, look at the picture on page 91. What animal is Buck's new friend?

They decide to stay there and each day the men pan for gold. They find big nuggets of gold and gold dust in the clear mountain water. There are thousands of dollars in the stream! The men fill many sacks with gold. Each sack contains twenty kilos.

The dogs have nothing to do while the men work. Sometimes they pull the meat that Thornton kills in the forest back to camp.



Buck spends many hours by the fire. He often dreams about the short hairy man. He sees this man sleeping by the fire, his hands behind his head. He runs beside the hairy man, they hunt together, they fish together. Buck feels at home in this strange dreamland.

During this time Buck also hears “The Call of the Wild”. He hears it in his blood. Sometimes he runs into the forest to find it. He thinks it is something real, he thinks he can see it. He puts his nose into the cool moss or the black soil. He sometimes stays there quietly for a long time. He hopes he can find this call, this strange sensation from the wilderness that stirs his senses and makes him want to run and run and run. Sometimes, when he is sleeping in the warm sun, he suddenly lifts his head and his ears prick up. He jumps up and goes running into the forest. He runs through the trees and across the open spaces. He runs by the rivers and streams. He likes to watch the birds and animals that live there. Sometimes he spends all day just watching partridges.

One night, Buck hears a noise as he sleeps. It is a long, low **howl**. He doesn't recognise this sound, no dog makes it, but something inside of him stirs. Buck springs to his feet and runs into the dark, silent forest. He comes closer to the sound. He moves more slowly, cautiously. Soon, he comes to an open space. A long, thin timber wolf is standing there, its nose pointing to the sky.



Buck makes no noise, but the wolf stops howling and stands very still. It knows he is there. It runs away when it sees Buck, but he follows it. The wolf turns and snarls at Buck. It shows its teeth and snaps at him, but Buck does not attack. He circles around the wolf. He tries to be friendly, but the wolf is suspicious and afraid. Then the wolf sees an opening in the trees and runs. Buck chases him for a long time. In the end the wolf understands that Buck is not an enemy. They touch their noses together, they become friends and play. The wolf runs in front of Buck — he wants Buck to follow him. They run side by side through the forest. Buck knows this is The Call. He knows this is Freedom. He knows this is the life he was born to.

Buck and the wolf stop by a stream to drink. Then Buck remembers John Thornton. He sits down. The wolf begins to run again but Buck doesn't move. The wolf comes back. He wants Buck to follow him, but he can't. He gets up and starts back to the camp. The wolf runs with him for an hour, it doesn't understand. Buck goes on back to the camp. Then the wolf sits, raises its nose to the sky, and begins to howl sadly. Buck keeps going towards the camp. Soon, he hears only a faint howl in the distance, then nothing.





The Sound of the Call

Check your comprehension

4 True or false? Indicate T or F.

	T	F
1) Thornton is afraid of the wilderness.	☐	☐
2) The dogs work very hard while the men pan for gold.	☐	☐
3) Thornton, Hal and Pete find a lot of gold in the cabin.	☐	☐
4) Each sack holds 20 kilos of gold.	☐	☐
5) Buck never goes into the forest alone.	☐	☐
6) Buck fights with a timber wolf.	☐	☐
7) Buck leaves John Thornton and runs away with the wolf.	☐	☐

Now rewrite the false statements with the correct information.

Characters

5 Which expressions describe Buck and which ones describe the wolf? List them in the appropriate columns in the table at the top of page 93.

- a) watches partridges
- b) points its nose to the sky
- c) howls
- d) spends hours by the fire
- e) snaps and snarls
- f) dreams
- g) is suspicious and afraid
- h) remembers John Thornton

BUCK	WOLF

Language

A/AN

Near the mine there is *an* ancient cabin.
Buck hears *a* noise as he sleeps.

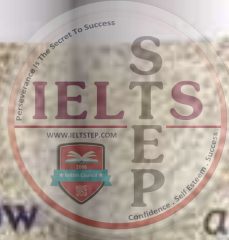
6 Complete the sentences with *a* or *an*.

- 1) The men find _____ stream with gold in it.
- 2) The wolf sees _____ opening in the trees.
- 3) Buck's first master wasn't _____ cruel man.
- 4) Would you like _____ egg for breakfast?
- 5) Have you got _____ pen?

Story summary

7 Put the sentences in the correct order.

- a) Buck meets a timber wolf.
- b) The men fill many sacks with gold.
- c) Buck runs through the forest.
- d) Thornton and his friends are trying to find "The Lost Cabin".
- e) They find a stream with a lot of gold in it.
- f) Buck returns to the camp to stay with Thornton.
- g) They find a cabin in a remote place.



The story so far

- 1 Look at the illustrations in chapters 1, 5 and 15. How has Buck changed during the story? Put each of the sentences (a-r) in the appropriate column of the chart.

CHAPTER 1	CHAPTER 5	CHAPTER 15

CHAPTER 15

Buck Returns to the Wild

When Buck comes back into the camp John Thornton is eating his dinner. Buck jumps on him. He licks his face and bites his hands. Buck doesn't leave the camp for two days. He is always at Thornton's side, but he remembers his wild brother. He returns to the forest when he can, but the wolf is not there.

Buck begins to sleep outside at night. He stays away from the camp for many days. He continues to look for the wolf. In the forest his natural instincts come alive. One day, he kills an animal for meat. He returns two days later and sees a dozen wolverines finishing his meat. He chases them away. He becomes a hunter, killing for meat, fishing for salmon in the streams. One day he even kills a large black bear. He is a predator, he looks for prey. He lives alone in this harsh environment and he is proud because he knows only the strongest animals can survive here. He is proud too of his strong body and his ability to hunt and kill. He is proud that he can live like his wild brothers, the wolves.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| a) Buck becomes a hunter | j) his muscles are strong as iron |
| b) he's big and strong | k) he eats anything |
| c) his wild instincts come alive | l) he becomes very smart |
| d) he becomes proud | m) he kills for meat |
| e) he's very healthy | n) he runs around Judge Miller's grounds |
| f) he is a fighter and survivor | o) he likes to swim and hunt |
| g) he avoids fights | p) he's king of the Judge's place |
| h) he does not like the rope | q) he lives on meat |
| i) he does not feel much pain | r) he loves Thornton |

Buck now thinks and acts like a wolf. His sight, hearing, and smell become very acute. He is intelligent and fast. When he sees a movement in the trees, he moves very quickly. When he hears a sound, he turns immediately. His muscles are like steel. His blood is fresh with energy. "There are no other dogs like Buck," says John Thornton one day.

Everyone in camp is watching his dog. "There won't be others like him again, either," says Pete. "He's special."

"Sure thing," says Thornton.

Buck is different in the camp. He is sleepy and lazy. He lets Thornton pet him. He lies next to his master or follows him around. He is Thornton's companion. But in the forest, Buck changes, moving quickly and silently. No animal escapes him. He catches fish, beavers, rabbits. He is a confident hunter.



One day Buck sees a herd of moose. He chases the herd. One bull moose is alone. Buck circles the bull moose. The moose charges at him. Buck follows the herd. He and the bull moose watch each other for three days. He is very patient, he doesn't get tired. On the fourth day, he attacks the moose many times. Soon, the moose becomes weak. Finally, Buck kills the moose. He feels proud. He is a stronger hunter than ever now.

After the hunt, Buck decides to return to the camp. He finds a new trail in the forest and follows it. After a while he sees Nig lying on the ground. He has an arrow in his body, he is dead. A hundred metres further down the trail, Buck sees one of Thornton's sled-dogs. He too is dead.

Buck arrives at the camp. He sees Hans full of arrows, dead on the ground. Nearby, Buck sees several Yeehat Indians dancing around the cabin. He is very angry. This is his camp. He springs on one of the Indians and tears his throat. He jumps on another Indian and kills him too. The Yeehats try to kill Buck with their arrows but he dodges them. The Yeehats are afraid of Buck. They can't kill him so they think he must be a devil. He chases them away from the cabin.

Buck returns to the camp, where he finds Pete's body. Full of sadness, he goes down to the stream. It is very quiet there. He finds his



master, John Thornton, near the water. He is dead. Buck stays by the stream and cries and cries. He has a terrible emptiness inside him. His heart aches. His best friend is gone. He sniffs his master's body. Men die so easily, he thinks.

It is evening. The moon is bright in the sky. Buck feels his wild instincts waking up. He hears the sounds of his wild brothers in the forest. He runs back to the place where he met the timber wolf. The sounds are louder. This time he is ready to obey "The Call." His master John Thornton is dead and his last connection with humans is gone.

Buck finds the pack of wolves. They are eating the meat of a moose. An old wolf moves towards Buck. They touch noses. The call is very strong inside Buck now. He sits down and turns his nose up to the sky. He begins to howl, long and loud. The rest of the wolves howl, too.

This is the end of Buck's story. What happened to him next we will never know, but the Yeehat Indians in the Northland still talk about a powerful "Ghost Dog" in the remote forests there. They are afraid of it. It steals food, they say, and robs their traps. It kills their dogs. This dog is not always alone, often many wolves follow it. It runs at the head of a great pack of wolves. It springs high in the air and howls the call of the wild.





Buck Returns to the Wild

Check your comprehension

2 Answer the questions.

- 1) Whose face does Buck lick?
- 2) What does Buck think and act like?
- 3) What are the wolves doing when Buck finds them?
- 4) Which two large animals does Buck kill in chapter 15?
- 5) Where does Buck find Thornton at the end of the chapter?
- 6) Who killed Thornton, Hans, Pete and the dogs?
- 7) When does Buck find his wild instincts waking?

Words

3 Look up the meaning of these words in a dictionary.

instincts kill predator prey
charge attack hunt fish

4 What animal from chapter 15 matches each of the following descriptions?

- a) A large, furry animal with horns that eats leaves and grass.
- b) A furry animal with large teeth and yellow eyes that eats meat.
- c) A rodent with very large teeth and a flat tail, that lives in streams and rivers.
- d) A rodent with long ears and a short tail, that lives under the ground.

Language

5 Underline the prepositions in the following sentences.

- 1) The team travels through the harsh wilderness.
- 2) Buck sleeps outside the camp.
- 3) Buck spends many hours by the fire.
- 4) He sees Nig lying on the ground.
- 5) He puts his nose into the cool moss.

6 Now complete these sentences with the appropriate prepositions.

- 1) I was late so I parked my motorbike _____ the cinema.
- 2) The dog ran _____ the gate and onto the street.
- 3) The thief ran _____ the subway and the police couldn't find him.
- 4) We had a picnic _____ the lake.
- 5) I put your keys _____ the kitchen table.

Story summary

7 Complete the summary.

Buck returns to the _____ and _____ Thornton's face. He continues to go into the _____ to hunt and _____ but he can't leave Thornton. He becomes a very good _____. One day he kills a bull _____. Then Buck finds Nig with his body full of _____. He sees some Yeehat Indians _____ around the cabin. Then he finds his _____, John Thornton, _____ by the stream. Buck _____ many of the Indians. They are _____ of Buck. They think he is a _____. Buck goes to live in the forest with a _____ of _____. The Yeehat Indians still talk about _____ Dog in the remote forests of the _____.

The Life of Jack London



1. Read the chronology of the life of Jack London.

1876 John Griffith London is born in San Francisco. His mother, Flora Wellman, isn't married. Many people think his father is William Chaney, a journalist, lawyer, and astronomer. An ex-slave called Virginia looks after the baby because his mother is ill. His nickname is Jack.

1882 Jack goes to school in Oakland, California.

1890 Jack quits school. He has many different jobs. He works in a San Francisco factory. He collects oysters, sails on a ship, and travels through the United States.

1895 Jack returns to high school. He likes politics. He also likes reading and begins to write stories. He writes about the terrible conditions of the factory workers at that time. He sends stories, anecdotes and poems to magazines, but he doesn't have much success.

1897 Jack hears about the gold rush in the Klondike. He and four friends decide to go there. They build a small boat and sail up the Yukon River, looking for gold.

1898 Jack becomes very sick. He has to leave the Klondike and returns to California.



1989 Jack's first stories are **printed** in the USA. Many of them are about the Klondike and his adventures in the primitive environment there.

1900 Jack marries Bess Maddern.

1903 Jack writes *The Call of the Wild*. This story is about the Alaskan Gold Rush and the lives of the dogs that worked there. It is his most popular story and is read by people all over the world.



Above: scene from the film *The Call of the Wild*.

Below: gold miners in the Klondike (1896).



1916 Jack is often ill during his life. Around this time he develops **kidney disease**. He dies on 22 November.

2 Put these statements about the life of Jack London in the correct order.

- Jack London writes *The Call of the Wild*.
- Jack London gets married.
- Jack London is born.
- Jack London does a lot of different jobs around the USA.
- Jack London's first stories are printed.
- Jack London dies.
- Jack London goes to the Klondike.

Siberian Huskies



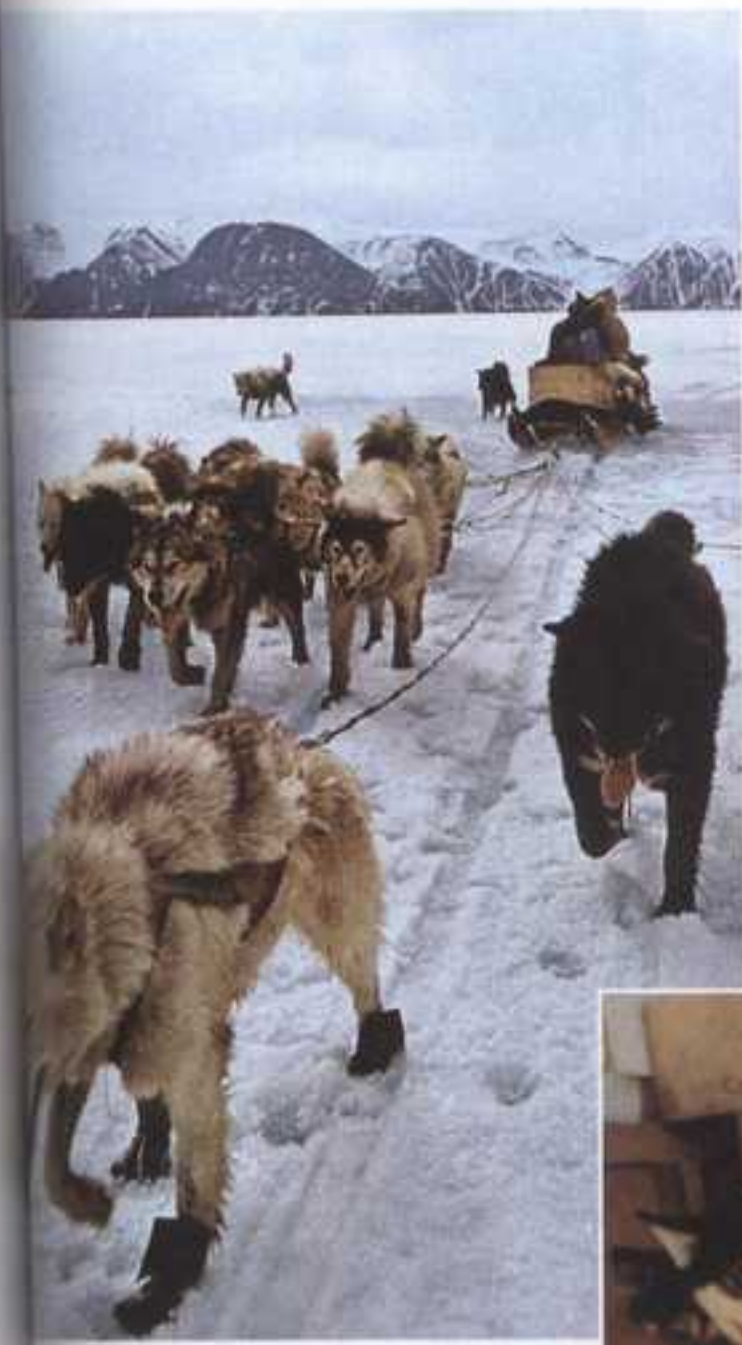
3 What do you already know about Huskies? For each question in list A, find the answer in list B.

A

- a) Are Siberian huskies part wolf?
- b) Why do some Siberian huskies have pink and black noses?
- c) Can Siberian huskies have different coloured eyes?
- d) Do Siberian huskies cause problems in family homes?
- e) Are Siberian huskies stupid dogs?
- f) Do Siberian huskies make good pets?
- g) How cold a temperature can a Siberian husky live in?

B

- 1) No, they are very intelligent working dogs. Sometimes they are stubborn and difficult to train, but they are very intelligent animals.
- 2) Yes, this is fairly common. One eye can be blue and the other eye brown.
- 3) Yes and No. They are very intelligent dogs. Sometimes they do things that surprise their owners. They become bored very easily and can sometimes chew things in the house or dig in the garden. It is important to give them lots of activities.
- 4) They can work and live in temperatures as low as 75 degrees below zero F.
- 5) No. Many people think they are part wolf, but they aren't. They are purebred dogs.
- 6) This is called a "snow nose". It is fairly common in this breed of dog.
- 7) It can disappear in warm months and reappear in the winter.
- 8) They are very friendly, gentle dogs. They make excellent pets.



The Klondike

1. Read the two articles from a Northland newspaper, *The Klondike Bugle*. Choose one of these titles (a-d) for each article.

- a) Gold in the Klondike
- b) Problems with Wolves
- c) Travel to the Gold Fields
- d) How to Find Gold



Skagway and Dyea are located 600 miles south of the gold fields. They are the closest salt-water ports to the Klondike area. Most of the miners stay in these towns. There are the departure

points for the two most popular routes to the Klondike by dogsled. From Skagway the miners take the trail called the White Pass and from Dyea they take the Chilkoot Pass.

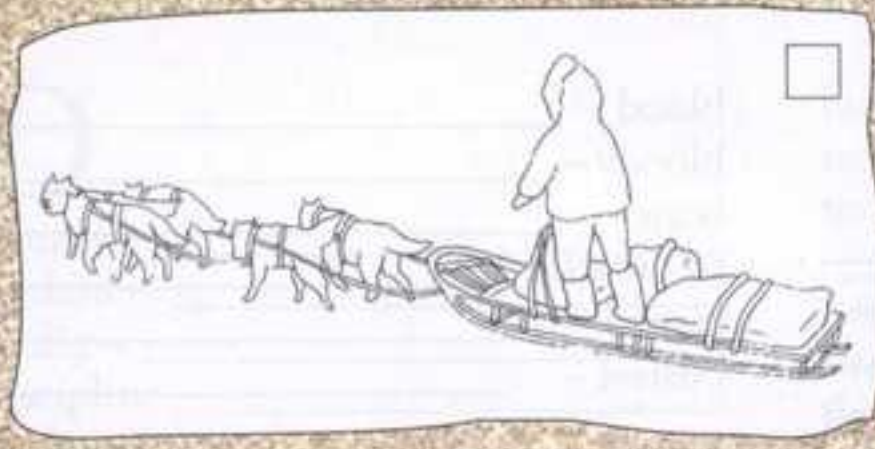
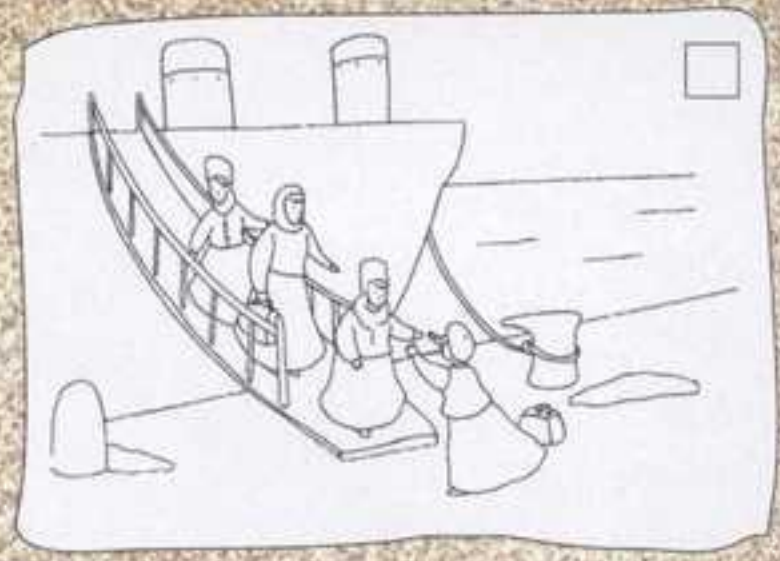
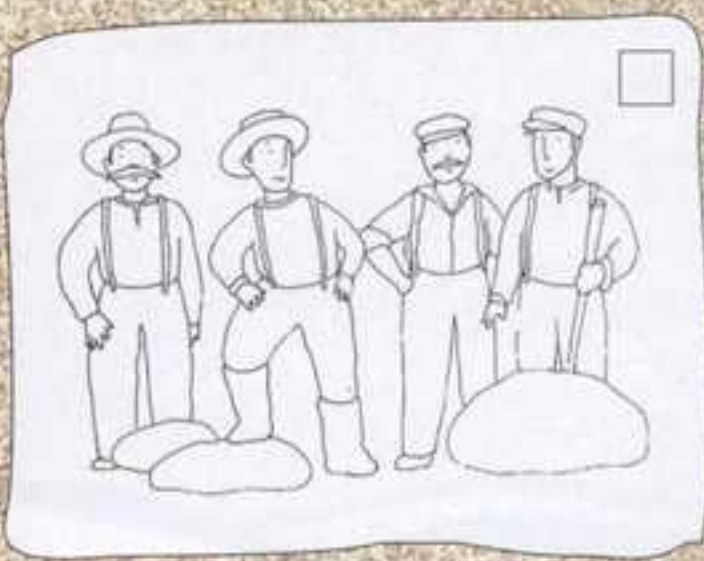
Two days ago Skookum Jim was poor. Today he is a very rich man. Jim and his friend Tagish Charlie and his brother-in-law George Carmack found gold in the Klondike. A lot of gold. Jim tells us his story:

"On August 17, Discovery Day, I was with my friend Tagish Charlie and my brother-in-law George at a place called Rabbit Creek, panning for gold in the

water of the small river. The night before, George said he had a dream about a fish with gold eyes! It was a lovely day. The sun shone on the water and suddenly I saw something shining. We found gold! And then we found more gold! We worked all day and we filled a lot of bags with gold. We were incredibly happy. It's a lucky creek. We changed its name. Now we call the place "Bonanza Creek".

2. Now look at these pictures from *The Klondike Bugle*. Match each picture to an appropriate caption (a-d).

- a) Gold! Gold! Gold! in the Klondike
- b) Travelling the Klondike!
- c) The Women Arrive at Last!
- d) Miners Register to Hunt, Fish and Mine Gold!



1 Match each word in column A to its opposite in column B.

A

dry
best
cry
empty
poor
wild
mean
danger
healthy

B

full
sick
rich
safety
worst
wet
laugh
kind
tame

A

to ache – _____
to act – _____
alert – _____
amount – _____
anchor – _____
anecdote – _____
anyone – _____
anything – _____
to arch your back – _____
at all – _____
to avoid – _____
axe – _____

B

back – _____
back and forth – _____
bacon – _____
baggage car – _____
to bare your teeth – _____
to bark – _____
to be used to – _____
to be worth – _____
to beat – _____
best – _____

blood – _____
bloody – _____
bones – _____
to breathe – _____
buried – _____
busiest – _____

C

cage – _____
canned – _____
to care – _____
caught, to catch – _____
to challenge – _____
to chase – _____
chest – _____
to choke – _____
chunk – _____
to circle – _____
coat – _____
to cover – _____
to cower away – _____
to crawl – _____
crazy – _____
to crush – _____
to cry – _____
to curl up – _____

2. How many names of animals can you find in this "animal chain"? Which of them are typical of Alaska?

ROCODILEMO

OSELEPHANT

IONDOGHORSESALMON

MOUSE

RABBIT

SHEEP

WOLF

PIG

BEAR

COW

D

danger - _____
to dare - _____
to dig - _____
discipline - _____
disease - _____
to disobey - _____
disturbing - _____
to dodge - _____
to drip - _____
dry - _____

E

empty - _____
enemy - _____
enough - _____
entire - _____
equipment - _____
exasperated - _____
exhausted - _____
to expect - _____

F

fair - _____
fair play - _____

fang - _____
fed - _____
to fight to the death - _____

fireplace - _____
firewood - _____
flat - _____
to fly - _____
folded - _____
food - _____
foreign - _____
frantically - _____
to freeze - _____
fresher (comp.) - _____
to frighten - _____
frightened - _____
frozen - _____
furious - _____
furry - _____

G

gambling - _____
to gather together - _____
to gather up - _____
to give in - _____
glacier - _____
to go crazy - _____

3 Look at the list of words on the right, then follow each of the instructions below. Time how long you take to identify each group of words. Compare your times with those of your classmates.

- 1) Put a circle around 6 words for feelings.
- 2) Underline 7 words for sounds that dogs make.
- 3) Put a box around 12 words for parts of a dog's body.
- 4) Put a coloured line under 9 words for things used on the Yukon Trail.

gold – _____
gold miner – _____
to grab – _____
ground – _____
to growl – _____
to grumble – _____
to gulp down – _____
gunshot – _____

H
hairless – _____
hairy – _____
hard – _____
to harness – _____
harness – _____
healthy – _____
hearing – _____
helpless – _____
to howl – _____
to hug – _____
hunger – _____
to hunt – _____
hurt – _____

I
in pain – _____
indoors – _____
iron – _____
It's none of my business – _____

J
jaw – _____
to jump on – _____

K
kidney – _____
to knock (to the ground) – _____

knowledge – _____

L
Lazy brutes! – _____
to lead – _____
to lean over – _____
to lick – _____
to lie down – _____
light – _____
to lighten – _____
to limp – _____
lip – _____
to load – _____
log – _____
lonely – _____
to look after – _____
to loosen – _____
loud – _____

back furious lonely nose rope jaw pleased growl proud

yelp bark toes howl whimper eyes tail revolver tongue

cry fang crazy snarl whip throat sled harness coat

ears firewood head axe sleeping bag tent frightened

M

mail carrier - _____
to make good time - _____

to make room for - _____
to make trouble - _____
to manage - _____
master - _____
matted - _____
mean - _____
menacingly - _____
mess - _____
Mexican hairless dog - _____

mining town - _____
to miss - _____
mongrel - _____
moody - _____
moose - _____
move them on - _____
mud - _____
muscle - _____
mustache - _____

N

Never mind - _____
Newfoundland dog - _____
nickname - _____
nightmare - _____

to nip - _____
no longer - _____
noise - _____

O

to obey - _____
order - _____
owner - _____

P

pack - _____
painfully - _____
to pant - _____
pasture - _____
to pat - _____
path - _____
piece - _____
to pitch a tent - _____

pleasant - _____
pleased - _____
to poke - _____
poor - _____
power - _____
printed - _____
propeller - _____
proud - _____
pug dog - _____
to punish - _____

4 Fill in the crossword puzzle.

Across

- 1) _____ does the red-sweater man take Buck? To the Northland.
- 3) A large animal that lives in Alaska.
- 7) François is Buck's _____ for some time.
- 8) Where Buck learns to sleep.
- 9) Buck becomes the leader of the dogsled _____.
- 11) Buck steals a _____ of bacon from Perrault.
- 12) Buck becomes stronger, healthy and _____ in the Northland.
- 13) The Northland is a primitive place full of _____.

Down

- 1) Hal and Charles are men but Mercedes is a _____.
- 2) After a long winter on the Yukon trail, Buck needs to _____.
- 4) Buck learns to _____ a man with a stick.
- 5) When the dogs arrive in Dawson they are completely _____.
- 6) When Buck is in the cage on the train the two men _____ him with sticks.
- 10) Buck's favourite food.
- 11) When Buck pulls the heavy sled for John Thornton all the people _____.

Q

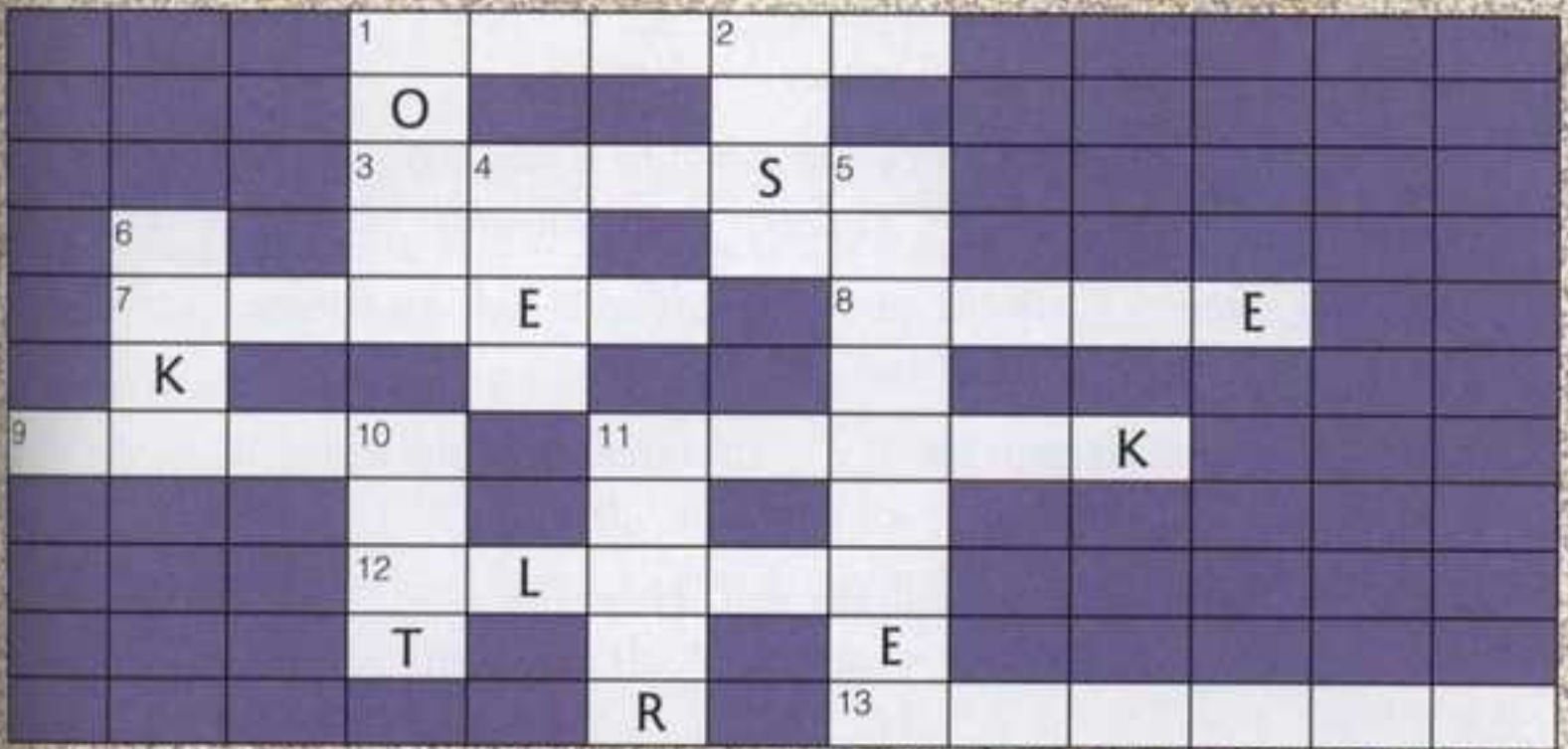
to quit - _____

R

ration - _____
 ravenously - _____
 to reach - _____
 to rest - _____
 restless - _____
 to retreat - _____
 revolver - _____
 to rip - _____
 rope - _____
 route - _____
 to rub - _____
 rule - _____
 to run away - _____
 runner - _____

S

saloon - _____
 to save - _____
 scar - _____
 shadow - _____
 to shake your head - _____
 sharp - _____
 to shiver - _____
 silly - _____
 skin - _____
 sled - _____
 sleeping bag - _____
 slice - _____
 smarter (comp.) - _____
 to snarl - _____
 to sniff - _____
 snowdrift - _____
 somehow - _____
 sore - _____



to spill out – _____
 to spring at – _____
 to squeal – _____
 stable – _____
 to stand still – _____
 to steal – _____
 stick – _____
 stiff – _____
 straps and buckles – _____
 to stretch out – _____
 strict – _____
 to strike – _____
 to struggle – _____
 stubborn – _____
 stuck – _____
 stuff – _____
 to surround – _____
 to survive – _____
 sweetheart – _____

T

to take advantage of – _____

to take down – _____
 to take over – _____
 teammate – _____
 to tear – _____
 tent – _____
 to thaw – _____
 thief – _____
 throat – _____
 tied up – _____
 to tighten – _____
 tiring – _____
 toe – _____
 tongue – _____
 torn – _____
 to touch – _____
 trail – _____
 trapped – _____
 to trick – _____

5 Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

- 1) He eats his food very quickly. He _____ it down.
a) chews b) eats c) makes d) gulps
- 2) He walks _____ and forwards when he is nervous.
a) up b) backwards c) down d) towards
- 3) My dog often _____ in the garden. He likes to hide his bones.
a) digs b) plays c) run d) jumps
- 4) My cat likes to sleep in the _____ of a tree on sunny days.
a) cloud b) shadow c) corner d) arm
- 5) The dog doesn't want to pull the sled. He's very _____.
a) furious b) painful c) hurt d) stubborn

to trip up - _____
trouble - _____

V

vicious - _____
victim - _____

W

to wag - _____
to waste - _____
war - _____
watery - _____
way - _____
to weigh - _____
weight - _____

to welcome - _____
wet - _____
whenever - _____
to whimper - _____
to whip - _____
whip - _____
wild - _____
wilderness - _____
worn - _____
wound - _____
wounded - _____
wriggle - _____
wristwatch - _____

Y

to yelp - _____
yards - _____

译文

人物简介

Buck(布克): 米勒法官最喜欢的狗, 后被人偷, 贩卖到北方, 最后回归到自然中。

Judge Miller(米勒法官): 布克在加利福尼亚的家的主人, 最喜欢布克。

Toots(图兹): 米勒法官家的一条日本哈巴狗。

Ysabel(伊萨贝勒): 米勒法官家的一条墨西哥无毛狗。

Manuel(曼纽尔): 在米勒法官家做园丁, 他为人不地道, 把布克从米勒法官家偷走。

The red sweater man(红衣人): 把布克从南方贩往北方, 他让布克领教了“棍子法则”。

Parrault(佩罗特): 法裔加拿大人, 信使, 供职于加拿大政府机关。利用雪橇投递淘金人的信件。

Francois(弗朗索瓦): 佩罗特的助手。

Curly(科利): 生性友善, 是“剑齿”下的牺牲品。

Spitz(斯匹次)来自斯匹次卑尔根, 一条凶残的雪橇狗, 常故意挑衅布克, 雪橇队排头狗。

Dave(大卫): 雪橇队成员之一, 一条非常敬业的狗。

Billee and Joe(比利和乔): 雪橇队成员, 一母所生, 但性格迥异。

Sol-lecks(索莱克斯): 雪橇队成员之一, 淡于名利, 只求做好本职工作。

Pike(派克): 雪橇队成员之一。

Dub(达布): 雪橇队成员之一。

Dolly(多利): 雪橇队成员之一, 较脆弱, 后来发疯, 被杀。

A Scottish man(苏格兰人): 购买了整个雪橇队, 他继续带领雪橇队传递信件。

Charlie(查理): 从苏格兰人那儿买了雪橇队, 却对此一无所知。

Hal(哈尔): 查理的妻弟, 是个自负的年轻人。

Mercedes(默西迪斯): 查理的妻子, 心地善良。

John Thornton(约翰·桑顿): 白河畔一个营地的主人, 为人正直, 救了布克的性命, 与布克结成生死之交。

Burton(伯敦): 挑衅桑顿, 被布克咬伤。

Mathewson(马修森): 与桑顿打赌之人。

Hans and Pete(汉斯和皮特): 桑顿的朋友。

Jim O'Brien(吉姆·奥布赖恩): 桑顿的老朋友。

Skeet and Nig(斯基特和尼格): 桑顿的两条狗, 非常喜欢布克。

第1章 布克去北方 (p. 4-7)

这里讲述的是一条名叫布克的狗的故事，这条狗高大强壮，毛厚且很健康，他在加利福尼亚的圣克拉拉的米勒法官家过着幸福的生活，是法官最喜欢的狗。他们家在郊外，房子又大又好，还带座大花园，花园里有果树和许多花。他们家还有大牧场和马厩。

法官还养着其他的狗，图兹是条日本哈巴狗，伊萨贝勒是条墨西哥无毛狗，他们是很奇怪的家伙！不喜欢和布克在户外奔跑，总喜欢一直待在室内，而布克不喜欢待在室内，却喜欢游泳和狩猎。清晨，布克喜欢和法官的女儿散步，晚上他喜欢卧在壁炉旁法官脚边睡觉。

布克爱他的家，他跑遍花园和牧场，认识其他所有的动物，是米勒法官家地盘上的国王。

时间是1897年，此时的美国好多事情都在变，许多人正向北到冰冷的北方荒野去，北方有金子，他们要去那里淘金以变得富裕。人们在寒冷多雪的北方劳作需要高大强壮、毛厚结实的狗来帮助他们拉雪橇运送设备到有金子的地方。曼纽尔在米勒法官家做园丁，他为人不地道：刻薄、喜欢投机，布克不喜欢他。

一天深晚，曼纽尔来到马厩，布克正在熟睡，他在布克脖子上拴了条绳子，布克吼叫着——他讨厌这绳子——但曼纽尔还是拽着他，把他从米勒法官家偷走了。

此时曼纽尔正和两个陌生人说话，他们不是正派人，以低价买了狗再转卖给北方人来获利。“这是条你们想要的狗。他叫布克，”曼纽尔说。布克又吼叫起来。曼纽尔生气了，他用力拉绳子，布克脖子上的绳子被拉紧了，他连气都喘不上来。“给你钱！马上走！记住——什么也不要说，”其中一个陌生人说，另一个人又拽紧了布克脖子上的绳子，布克感觉很难受——绳子使他窒息，舌头和喉咙被弄疼了。这种可怕的待遇对他来说是陌生的，他迷惑了，害怕了。

陌生人把布克放到火车上，以前布克常和米勒法官坐火车，但这次不同以往了。他呆在装有行李包裹的行李车厢里，里面又冷又不舒适，他很害怕。其中的一个陌生人走近布克想拿起绳子，布克吼叫着咬他的手，他边骂边打布克。

后来火车停了，陌生人带着布克一起进了一家酒吧。

酒吧男侍问他们花多少钱买到布克的。

“一百美元，”他们回答说。

“值，我觉得他值那个价，”侍者看着这条高大结实的狗说。

布克整夜都卧在火车行李厢的一个笼子里，他陷入痛苦中，无法理解所发生的一切。为什么这两个陌生人想买下他？为什么他呆在一个不舒服的笼子里？每次听到说话声，他都会跳起来。每当陌生人注视他的时候他都会吼叫。

早晨，这两人带他下了火车。在日光下布克打量着自己的新主人：他们脏兮兮

的，衣衫褴褛。他们嘲笑布克，用棍子从笼子护栏戳过去来折磨布克。后来他们又把笼子放到另一列火车上，火车又走了两天两夜，他们没给布克一点儿食物和水，他又饿又渴。终于火车停了下来，现在布克身处何地？

第2章 布克领教了“棍子法则” (p. 12-16)

火车停下来后，穿红色毛衣的陌生人拿斧头把笼子砸开。布克跑出来扑到他身上，他露出锋利的巨牙朝脏兮兮的红衣人咆哮，这人暴怒了，拿起一根大棍子用力抽打布克，布克跌倒在地上，惊呆了。他站起身又向这人扑去，这人又拿棍子抽打布克，布克又摔倒在地。布克多次扑向他，这人多次用大棍子用力抽打布克，打在布克的鼻子上疼痛难忍！布克的嘴上背上都流出了血，再次摔倒在地，这一次他没能起来——他不能再和这人斗了，因为他已筋疲力尽，伤痕累累了。

红衣人对布克说：“好了，布克，我的孩子，战斗结束了，现在你明白我是你的主人了吧。如果你做条好狗就会得到好待遇，如果你做条坏狗只有挨棍子！明白吗？”

那人拍拍布克的头，给他拿来块肉，布克从他手里把肉吃掉。布克领悟到自己必须服从持棍人，这是个他要记住的教训，这就是简单的统治北方荒野的“棍子法则”。

有许多狗被关在笼子里用火车运来，他们都被用绳子拴了起来。一些狗像布克一样和这些人斗，人们使用棍子来对付他们。一次次地布克看到这种可怕的待遇，他现在明白了持棍人就是主人——狗必须服从。

布克留意红衣人：他和其他许多人都搭话，他们给他钱，有时会把其中的一条狗带走。布克不知道他们去了哪里，很高兴自己不必和他们走，但几天后情况变了，一个男人从红衣人手里买下布克，这人又矮又黑，是个外国人，英语讲得不好，布克很难明白他说的话。

“嘿！”每当他见到布克都会大叫，“好大一条狗！嗯？能值多少钱？”

“三百元——这是个好价钱，”红衣人快语道。

外国人笑了，他了解狗，知道像布克这样的狗花三百元是个公平价，于是把钱付给红衣人，他又买了条高大温和名叫科利的纽芬兰狗，然后他们一起乘了一艘名叫纳尔维拉的轮船离开了那小镇。布克此后再没见到那个红衣人。

外国人名叫佩罗特，是法裔加拿大人，他供职于加拿大政府机关，当信使，他把重要信件送往大北方的各个地方。和他一起出行的是个名叫弗朗索瓦的法裔加拿大印第安人，这人高个子、宽肩膀。两个新主人心地善良且强壮，他们公正、镇定，布克尊敬他们。

在船上布克和科利加入到佩罗特另两条狗的行列中，其中一条是高大白颜色的雪橇犬，名叫斯匹次，来自斯匹次卑尔根，他了解北方和它严厉的“法律”，他非

常聪明——偷吃布克的第一顿饭，布克跳起来向他反击时，弗朗索瓦却因布克制造了麻烦而鞭打他。

另一条狗叫大卫，他情绪多变且忧伤，不愿意和其他狗在一起，也从不表露他的情绪，布克觉得他是个怪家伙。

轮船日夜航行，船上除了推进器的声音外没有其他任何声音。虽然日子一天接一天地同样过下去，但是布克注意到天气在逐渐变冷。一天早晨当他醒来时再没听到推进器的声音，船上所有的狗都兴奋得开始狂叫。

弗朗索瓦把他们带到甲板上，他们跳下船，走进岸上白色的松软的什么东西里，那东西摸上去像泥巴，布克有点儿害怕，这白色的东西从天上落到他毛上，他抖抖身子，但是会有更多的白色东西落在他身上，布克很好奇——他闻了闻，用舌头舔了些，它咬上去像火，但是一会儿这种感觉就没了。

他又试了试，人们都注视着布克大笑起来，他觉得自己很傻，但又不明白人们为什么发笑，这是他第一次见到雪。

第3章 布克领教了“剑齿法则”(p. 18-21)

布克呆在奇怪的北方的第一天像一场噩梦，他看到的、触到的一切都是奇怪而又令他不安的。他想起了在温暖的阳光明媚的加利福尼亚的舒适的法官家，还有那里安逸愉悦的生活。他发现现在自己处在一个寒冷而严峻的地方，生活非常简陋，没有了和平与安宁，相反有的只是困惑、嘈杂和危险。

在这里，狗以一种布克无法理解的方式打架，他们像狼一样凶恶。科利就是他们的第一个牺牲品。她很友好，走过去和一条魁梧的雄性雪橇狗交朋友，虽然这条狗长着狼一样的身材，但比科利小，他很不友好，只是冷冷地注视着科利，然后突然扑向她，他的牙齿又大又尖，颌非常有力，他用牙齿撕咬科利的脸，而科利只是痛苦恐惧地尖叫。

接着，奇怪的事情发生了：三四十条雪橇狗向科利他们围拢过来。科利扑向这条狗，但他快速闪开了。当她再次扑向前时，他跃向半空用胸膛猛击科利，这一击使她重重地摔倒在地上，再没站起来。

围着的狗兴奋了，咆哮着、狂吠着、尖叫着。布克无法理解这些狗为何观看这种可怕的场面，为何舔自己的唇。慢慢地他们向科利围拢过去，接着开始撕咬她，她被这些狗埋在身下。这是狼的争斗方式：其中的一个跳进去快速袭击，然后一起进攻伤者。布克被惊呆了，他害怕极了。

弗朗索瓦拿了把斧头赶到了，人们拿着棍子也来了，他们不停地打狗，终于狗不再撕咬可怜的科利，人们把狗驱散了，而科利那暖暖的棕色身体却没有了气力，没有了生命，白色的雪地上留下大片殷红的鲜血。

这就是北方的生活方式：没有公平，没有同情。对于北方的人与狗来说，除了“棍棒和剑齿法则”，没有任何其他法则可言，那是痛苦法则，也是权利法则，在此

只有强者生存。

很快，布克又一次震惊了。弗朗索瓦把许多带子和扣环套在他背上——是雪橇牵索。布克想起法官家马厩里套在马身上的牵索。现在布克必须像马那样工作了，他必须拉坐在雪橇上的弗朗索瓦到峡谷中的森林中去，弗朗索瓦在雪橇上装满柴火，然后布克再把雪橇拉回驻地。布克不喜欢这份工作，但他不想违抗，因为他记得棍棒及它带来的痛苦。弗朗索瓦是严厉的，他要求彻底的服从，还经常使用鞭子。

布克很聪明，学得也很快，拉雪橇时大卫被套在布克的后面，每当布克不知如何是好时，大卫就咬布克的腿。斯匹次是领头狗，他懂得怎样拉雪橇，已经习惯在严寒和冰雪中工作，但他不喜欢布克，常对着他吼叫，一有可能就会设法和他打架。布克从其他狗那儿学会了如何拉雪橇，他也懂得了弗朗索瓦的口令：“吁”是“停”，“驾”是“走”，他还知道当拉雪橇下山时自己不能走在雪橇前面。

“这些狗都不错，”弗朗索瓦对佩罗特说，“尤其是那个布克，他拉得非常好，他们学得挺快。”

佩罗特又为雪橇队买回两条狗——比利和乔，这是两条纯种雪橇狗，他们俩是兄弟，但性格迥异：比利友好、快乐，而乔喜怒无常——常生气且好斗。队友以不同的方式迎接了这对狗兄弟，布克待他们如朋友，大卫不理睬他们，斯匹次和他们斗。斯匹次咬比利时，比利害怕地退缩开，但当他咬乔时，却遭到乔勇敢的还击，只见乔背上的毛竖起来，耳朵直立在头上，剑牙暴露，怒吼着，斯匹次再也不敢挑衅了。

晚上，佩罗特又带回营地一条老雪橇狗，这只狗长得瘦长，满脸伤疤，只有一只眼睛。狗儿们明白他是很早前就领教过北方严酷法则的斗士，他们立即对他肃然起敬，他名叫索莱克斯，意思是“发怒者”。和大卫一样他不索取什么，也不关心什么，更不期待什么。当他走进营地时，就连斯匹次也不敢和他斗。

第4章 布克在严酷的北方生活 (p. 24-27)

布克在寒冷的北方无法睡觉。一天晚上他穿过忙碌的营地，走进弗朗索瓦和佩罗特的帐篷取暖，他们俩边拿厨具砸他边冲他大喊——在北方，不允许狗住在人居住的帐篷里。布克只好沮丧地离开那温暖的帐篷，在寒冷的雪地里躺下，可是霜气冻得他浑身剧烈地抖动，要睡觉是不可能的了，很快他就起身又开始在营地四处溜达。他找不到任何可睡觉的舒适的地方。

最终，布克想出了主意，他要去躺在队友的身旁，可使他吃惊的是：他们全消失了！他在空旷的营地四处游荡想找到他们，他们在何处？他觉得孤独和压抑，他继续溜达，突然脚下一滑他摔倒在雪地里，是什么东西在他身下扭动。他吼叫着跳了回来，接着听到一个友好的微弱叫声，布克嗅了嗅雪地里的洞，看到一只狗躺在那儿，是比利蜷卧在雪下，那儿舒适又温暖！他用自己温暖而湿润的舌头舔舔布克

的脸。布克又学了一课——狗如何在北方保暖。于是布克挑选了块地方，挖个洞，然后蜷起来睡在雪被下。那一夜他睡得很舒适。

第二天早晨，布克直到听到营地上有动静才睁开眼。夜间下了好多雪，此刻布克完全被雪覆盖了，他忘记了自己身在何处，感觉自己被猎获了，心里害怕极了。他发疯似的狂叫着飞身一跃跳出睡洞，沐浴在晨光中，雪花在他身旁像云一样纷飞，紧接着他看到了帐篷，又听到了弗朗索瓦的声音。

他想起自己是在营地，此时人们在观看他。

“那个布克，学得很快，”弗朗索瓦说。

佩罗特要在北方传递政府发布的重要消息，因而必须组建一支出色的雪橇队。他很高兴拥有布克，因为布克壮实、聪明且学得快。又有三条狗加入到雪橇队，这俩人把狗都套在雪橇上，很快他们就上了到岱亚山谷的路，布克很高兴终于能离开了营地了。工作是艰苦的，但他喜欢做，他喜欢成为这支强队的一员，就连大卫和索莱克斯工作时似乎都喜欢和新伙伴合作，他们变得更活跃、更机警了，狗儿们在一起满意地工作着。

去岱亚山谷的旅途是遥远而艰辛的，他们奔过森林，越过冰川，跨过雪堆，溜过冰封的湖泊，每天行程达四十英里，因而腾出了充分的时间。那天晚上，他们拉着雪橇进入位于贝纳特湖畔的一个大营地，数千名淘金工生活在那里，他们制造船只以迎接夏季消融的冰雪。

布克在雪中扒了个洞，那一晚他睡得很香甜，他实在是太累了。

第二天以及接下来的许多天，小径更难走了，他们不得不行进得更慢些。雪地上佩罗特常得走在雪橇的前面为狗儿们开辟道路，他对冰雪了解甚多，知道哪儿的冰太薄雪橇不能从上面过，也知道哪儿的雪太深，佩罗特对冰雪的了解多次拯救了他们。每当天黑时他们就扎营，每当早晨太阳升起时他们起床准备再跋涉。

荒野的生活是野性的、原始的，狗儿们吃生鱼，露宿在雪地里。布克常常挨饿，尽管弗朗索瓦每天给他一磅三文鱼，但这点儿东西从没有让他吃饱过！劳作和寒冷使他更加饥饿，但布克又是幸运的，因为其他狗都比他瘦小，弗朗索瓦只给他们每个一磅三文鱼。

起初，布克像在南方一样高雅地吃东西，而其他吃得较快的狗竟敢当着他的面偷吃他的饭！他追着盗贼打，可就在他斗争时，别的狗又把他俩争夺的食物偷吃了！但布克很快就学聪明了——吃得和其他狗一样快，学会去保护自己的食物。每天他在留意、静候、理解一些有关这种严酷的奇怪生活的新东西。一天他看到派克——一条刚到的狗偷了佩罗特一片咸猪肉。第二天布克也试着偷肉吃，他动作迅速，竟偷到了一大块整肉，此后好多次他同样地作弄了佩罗特，但从没有被逮着过。迪伯——另一条新到的狗也试着偷肉吃，但他动作不如布克快，因而总是被抓，佩罗特一抓到他就用棍子打他。逐渐地布克学会了在这种严酷的新环境下幸存——他学会了如何在可怕的寒冷中生活，如何在饥饿时偷得额外的食物，如何

在雪橇队和伙伴合作，学会永远不去逃脱战斗，而是要给其他狗看自己并不害怕战斗。这就是北方，在北方统治他们一切的是“棍子和剑齿法则”。

第5章 布克迎战饿狼 (p. 32-35)

布克变得越来越强壮，浑身的肌肉像铁一样硬实，再也感觉不到疼痛了，他能很好地视和嗅，听觉也很灵敏。在路上冰块冻在脚趾缝间他学会把它咬出来，他知道了怎样在薄冰上掘出水洞——先用他僵硬的前爪击破冰后再饮水。在这空旷的荒野上他的本性显露出来，他变得强壮而敏捷——成为一条真正的北方狗。他是个伟大的幸存者，他也在学习做一个伟大的斗士，他还没有开始战斗，事实上他在设法避免战斗，但是斯匹次是他的敌人，总想和他斗。

队伍继续向北移动。他们在勒巴芝湖畔扎营，那儿非常非常冷，凌冽的寒风像刀一样吹打着，天黑得很早，他们得快速扎营。

靠近湖岸有一堵岩壁，他们就躲在岩壁下在结冰的湖面上扎营。弗朗索瓦和佩罗特在冰上生起了火，放好睡袋。布克靠近一块巨岩挖睡洞，那巨岩可为他遮挡寒冷。大家摸黑吃晚餐，布克不想离开温暖的睡洞去吃，但他实在饿极了，所以出去吃鱼了。当他返回洞里时发现斯匹次在里面，他觉得该是教训斯匹次的时候了，于是扑向了斯匹次，他们俩开始用利齿撕咬起来。

弗朗索瓦跑过来大喊，“啊——啊——啊！给他吧，布克！让给他吧！”

两条狗龇牙咧嘴兜着圈对峙着，弗朗索瓦和佩罗特挪进来准备阻止战斗。所有的眼睛都集中在他俩身上，谁也没有注意黑暗中在远离火堆的地方一群饿狼正慢慢地朝营地逼来，他们看上去像雪橇狗，但又不是，他们是野兽，都饿疯了。他们闻到了营地的饭味，坚定地朝食物箱挪动。佩罗特转过身看到一条狼把头伸到食物箱里，他朝狼扔棍子，但没击中狼，而是击中了食物箱，箱子被打成碎片，其他狼跑向撒出的食物，开始狼吞虎咽地吃起来。他们感到佩罗特的棍子落在背上，但他们饿的根本就不介意棍棒了，继续贪婪地吃。

队里的狗从睡洞里钻出来注视着狼，只见他们瘦骨嶙峋，只剩下皮包在骨头上，他们都饿疯了。他们明白自己斗不过这群野兽，但还是威胁性地冲他们咆哮。

突然狼群转向他们，其中三条进攻布克，他们狂怒地咆哮着撕咬他的肩膀，那场面可怕极了。比利惊恐地嚎叫，大卫和索莱克斯身上多次被咬，鲜血直流，但乔像魔鬼一样暴露出牙齿跃起攻击，他正好咬住一条狼的腿骨，把它咬断，接着派克向受伤的狼扑上去，咬断了它的脖子。布克咬穿了一条狼的脖子，斯匹次咬伤了另一条，这场面是残忍的、血腥的。

弗朗索瓦和佩罗特想拯救他们的狗，但他们明白如果想在路上幸存就得先保存剩余的食物——他们帮不了忙。大卫害怕了，穿过冰面跑开了，不久派克和达布也跟过去了，其他狗也都跟过去了。后来九条狗在森林里会合，所有的狗身上都多处受伤，达布左腿伤势严重，最后加入这支队伍的多利喉咙处流着血，乔瞎了一只眼睛，比利的一只耳朵被撕破了。当太阳升起时他们慢慢返回营地，饿狼跑了，雪橇队损失了一半的储备食物。

第6章 布克和斯匹次战斗到底 (p. 38-41)

在清冷的日光下，弗朗索瓦注视着受伤的狗，“啊，我的朋友，”他柔声地说，“你们还活着，但以后或许会因狼咬而发疯。”佩罗特很担心，到达道森前，他们还有四百英里的路要走。如果狗疯了的话，他们就不能到达那儿。他们俩给狗套好牵索后队伍开始上路了，接下来的路段是目前他们走过的最难的一段。

几天后他们来到“三十英里河”，河很宽，汹涌的河水冰冷而湍急。他们花了六天的时间仅走了三十英里，佩罗特还是走在队伍的前面开路，有好多次冰在他们脚下破裂，佩罗特不得不使用长竿把自己从冰水里拉出来。气温在零下五十度，每次佩罗特掉进冰里，队伍都必须停下很长一段时间，因为他必须生火烤干衣服来温暖自己，以使队伍能再次出发。佩罗特既强壮又勇敢，他冒过许多险，但他不是轻易会被吓倒的人。一次就在他跌入冰窟时，大卫和布克也随着跌了进去，他俩几乎冻死在冰水里，佩罗特生了堆火来烤化结在他们毛皮上厚厚的冰，为使他们再次温暖起来，佩罗特和弗朗索瓦赶着两条狗绕着火堆来回跑。另一天，河上的冰破了，雪橇无法横穿过去，他们不得不沿着峡谷的边缘向上走，然后越过悬崖，这样花了很长的时间，狗儿们非常累。

这三十英里是非常危险的，当最终到达胡特林夸再次找到坚冰时，他们都筋疲力尽了。布克非常累，其他狗状态好点儿，但他们在这种路上走比布克经验多一点儿。佩罗特催赶着他们起早贪黑一刻不停地快赶。布克的脚掌不如雪橇狗脚掌坚硬，由于冰冻他开始一瘸一拐地走。每晚弗朗索瓦都给布克可怜脚做按摩，他也为他做小爪套来保护他疼痛的双脚！爪套使布克感觉好多了。

在勒巴芝湖被野狼咬伤喉咙的那条狗多利开始出现怪异行为，她像攻击她的野狼一样大声长声地嗥叫，来回奔跑着，其他狗都吓坏了，她转向布克来进攻，但布克不愿和她斗，跑进了森林。

多利尾随着其后，弗朗索瓦召唤布克返回营地，拿根棍子在多利跑过他身边时使劲敲打她，多利头上遭到重重一击瞬间死去。突然，斯匹次乘着混乱之际袭击布克，弗朗索瓦拿鞭子抽打斯匹次。

“斯匹次是个魔王，”他对佩罗特说，“他要杀了布克。”

“布克壮实得很，斯匹次打不赢他，你等着瞧，”佩罗特回答。

现在斯匹次和布克之间公开的战争爆发了。斯匹次认为布克想夺取他在狗队领袖之位，因而要和布克决战到死，布克知道他必须迎战斯匹次——这是唯一解决的办法，他不害怕，开始越来越多地挑衅斯匹次。

一天，斯匹次在营地四处转悠着找茬，发现大卫在雪下睡觉，于是把他挖出来，开始和他搏斗。布克设法搭救大卫，朝斯匹次跳起后把他撞倒在地。弗朗索瓦用鞭子抽打布克要把这两个敌人分开，他不想让他俩中的任何一个在争斗中死去。斯匹次和布克都让步了，但他们此刻已成死敌。

队伍终于到达了道森，那是个忙碌的采矿小镇，镇上人和狗都辛劳地工作，

把原木和木柴拉到金矿。布克遇到很多狗，有些是像他一样来自南方，但多数狗都是雪橇狗。雪橇队在道森休整了一星期后离开了，他们沿着育空小径向北纵深。

一天，大卫在路上发现了一只雪兔，雪兔逃跑了，但队里所有的狗都追赶它。追到另一个营地附近时，那营地的五十只狗听到声音后也跟着追过了森林。布克带领着一大群狗，但就是抓不到野兔——它跑得太快了。突然斯匹次离开了狗群，沿着另一条小路跑去，他先绕过狗群，然后从狗群前面冲出来，冲着布克咆哮。布克明白此刻他们不得不战斗了，他们之一在今天将会死去。

他俩兜着圈子对峙，彼此垂涎，双耳直立，弓起背咆哮着。布克设法咬斯匹次的喉咙，斯匹次却用利齿保护自己，并用牙齿咬布克的肩膀，布克流血了，他也疲劳了。斯匹次再次冲向布克，布克打了个趔趄，但没有倒下。所有的狗都兴奋地尖叫着朝两位斗士围拢过来。布克知道他不能输，如果他输了，将会必死无疑。他跳向斯匹次，用巨齿咬碎了他的前腿，斯匹次疼得尖叫——他已无力自救了。布克快速地杀了他，狗群逐渐围拢上来，包围了这条死狗。

第7章 布克成为领头狗 (p. 44-47)

第二天早晨，弗朗索瓦发现斯匹次不见了，布克身上伤痕累累。“那斯匹次是真正的斗士，”佩罗特说。“是的，但布克是最强大的，他打起架来能抵上两条大雪橇狗，”弗朗索瓦说。“快点儿，佩罗特，我们得继续前进了，还有好长路要走呢。不再拥有斯匹次，也没有了麻烦。”

弗朗索瓦把东西装上雪橇，给狗套好套索。布克一声不响地走到斯匹次作为排头狗的老位置上，可是弗朗索瓦没看到他，而是把索莱克斯拉到了那个令人羡慕的地方，他相信索莱克斯最有经验，能胜任雪橇队排头狗之责。布克却生气了，凶猛地怒吼着扑向索莱克斯。

“怎么？”弗朗索瓦乐了，“看看布克吧！先杀了斯匹次，现在又来接替他的工作了！布克，走开！”

但布克不肯动，最终是弗朗索瓦硬把他拉开，换上了索莱克斯，布克生气地叫着，跑过去赶走了他，此刻弗朗索瓦真的生气了。

“布克，现在我就修理你！”他大声叫喊着拿起根大棍子。这时布克想起了红衣人，想起了棍子法则，他开始慢慢后退。索莱克斯再次被拽到排头位置，这次布克不再追赶他，只是在一旁愤怒地吼叫。弗朗索瓦招呼布克到大卫前面的位置，布克倒退了一两步，弗朗索瓦紧逼上前。每当弗朗索瓦逼近布克时，他都退却。这样一进一退的游戏僵持了好大一会儿，弗朗索瓦恼怒地把棍子扔向布克，但布克并不害怕棍子，他要的是领头权。

佩罗特和弗朗索瓦追赶布克有一个多钟头。他们向他扔棍子，他躲开了；他们诅咒他，他以愤怒的吼叫来还击。他不想设法跑掉，而是想让他们明白他要的是排头权。如果他得不到排头权，是不会和其他狗一起拉的。

佩罗特看看表，他很生气浪费了这么长时间和布克僵持，他们还得上路呢，于是他俩人决定屈服——布克做排头狗。他们把索莱克斯从排头的位置拉开后，招呼

布克。布克跟别的狗一样咧开嘴笑了，但他没有过来。弗朗索瓦摘下索莱克斯身上的牵索，让他回到他在雪橇前的老位置上。狗队被套在雪橇上，准备开跋上路。排头的位置空着，弗朗索瓦又召唤布克，布克又是笑，就是不回来。

佩罗特观察了一会儿这种场面说，“把棍子扔下。”

弗朗索瓦扔下棍子，布克看着他，摇着尾巴快步跑到排头位置。狗夫给他套上套索，狗儿们开始拉动雪橇，队伍再次上路了。

布克伶俐、敏捷，是出色的领头狗，他想让人看看作为领头狗他比斯匹次更优秀。大卫和索莱克斯很高兴布克做他们的领袖，他们的职责就是干活，而且也习惯了卖力地干活。由于狗队领头狗的更换，其他狗无宁日可言。狗儿们是难以管理的，但布克必须使他们表现得得体。派克处在布克身后的位置，他喜欢慢行，而布克不喜欢他这样，就强迫他卖力地拉。头天晚上他还得惩罚乔，乔是个脾气暴躁的家伙，挨着派克拉，一瞅准机会就咬派克。布克看到乔要咬时就扑向他，并且狠狠地咬他，乔疼得直叫。狗儿们开始明白布克就是他们的领袖，必须服从他。

几天后狗队更愉悦了，狗儿们融洽地合作着。弗朗索瓦和佩罗特在瑞恩克·阮皮兹又买了两条狗，他们分别叫逃克和库娜，由布克教他俩如何做个好雪橇狗。

“布克了不起，”弗朗索瓦说。“他值一千元，佩罗特，你看怎样？”

佩罗特赞许道，“那个布克，是迄今在北方雪道上拉雪橇最为出色的狗，”他说，“是我们曾拥有的最机智、最敏捷的狗，做领头狗，他当之无愧！”

第8章 雪橇队有了新主人 (p. 50-53)

布克是条优秀的领头狗，因而此刻雪橇队腾出充足的时间。气温在零下 50℃，队伍很少停下——他们俩每天长途奔跑而使雪橇队冒着严寒飞驰，两星期来的每一天，这支队伍都以每天四十英里的速度前进着。

佩罗特和弗朗索瓦在斯凯威休整了三天，和朋友们畅饮，狗儿们也非常受欢迎，有许多人驻足来欣赏他们。弗朗索瓦决定将雪橇队卖给一个苏格兰人，此人出大价钱给他。就在第二天他把狗队交给这人时，他非常伤心，一下子抱住布克哭起来，从此以后布克再没有见到弗朗索瓦和佩罗特。

现在布克必须和新伙伴们合作了，他们顺着小路返回到道森去。布克工作很卖力——他是在邮政服务机构最繁忙的线路上，狗儿们拉着沉重的邮件，把来自世界各地的信笺送给在北方淘金的人们。

布克不喜欢这份工作，可是他仍然做得不错，并以雪橇队领头狗之职而自豪，但天天都一样——辛劳而漫长。早晨，营地厨师生火，做饭。其他人套狗，之后队伍沿着小路前进，直到天黑。晚上再宿营，有人生火，有人砍柴，有人给厨师提水或取冰，还有人要喂狗。日子就这样继续着，线路没什么两样。

布克和伙伴们期待着吃饭时间，他们吃完鱼后，还可放松放松。营地有些狗打架很凶，布克和其中几只发生了激烈的打斗，结果大获全胜，不久他就成为这个营

地的霸主。

布克喜欢展洋洋地躺在篝火旁，回忆往昔的生活。有时他会想起米勒法官家在加利福尼亚的大房子，也会想起那儿的其他狗，像伊萨贝勒和图兹，还会想起那些温暖的、阳光明媚的日子。然而他会更经常地想起红衣人，想起可怜的科利和那场他与斯匹次的殊死搏斗。有时布克会做怪梦，梦见另一次另一人坐在另一堆篝火旁，这人身上长着很多毛，个头很矮，但很结实。长长的头发打着结，讲奇怪的语言，害怕黑暗。他不穿衣服，只穿兽皮。这梦很怪——布克一点儿也不明白。

雪橇队拉着重重的邮件，工作很辛苦。当到达道森时，狗儿们都很虚弱，他们需要长时间好好地休养，但是仅在两天后，人们又赶着他们继续向前。狗儿们非常累，因而行走缓慢，赶狗人为此而埋怨。每天都下雪，使狗儿们工作更艰辛。路面很软，在松软的没被碾过的雪地里拉雪橇很困难。赶狗人待狗和善——他们知道没有狗他们就无法生存，因而狗比人先用餐！

他们要检查完狗脚才能睡觉，要是狗脚疼的话，还得给狗按摩，行走在艰难的育空路上还是人困狗乏的。整个冬天，他们一路拉着雪橇行程达一千八百英里。

布克维持着狗队严格的纪律，狗儿们个性不同，问题也不一样。比利常在睡梦中哭泣，

他很累，不想再干了；乔的脾气变得一天比一天暴躁；索莱克斯不愿让其他任何狗接近他。

但最遭罪的是大卫。他身体有了毛病，变得很糟糕。当他们到达卡西巴尔时，他确实病得厉害，好多次他跌倒在路上，狗夫们把他从队伍中撤下来，让索莱克斯顶上去，但大卫讨厌这样做，他咆哮、吼叫——他要拉雪橇，即使在他生病时也要拉。他为自己感到骄傲，不想让其他狗代替他。他追着雪橇跑，一有机会就咬索莱克斯，苏格兰人不得不用鞭子把他从索莱克斯身旁赶走，但大卫不介意鞭打。最后他倒在路上，站不起来了。狗夫看到他倒下，走到他身边，他悲伤地抬头看着狗夫，他们知道他要死去了。最后他慢慢地痛苦地挣扎起来，狗夫们明白他要做什么，即使他要死去，也要死在岗位上。狗夫又把套索给他套上，把他拉回到原来的位置。他重又骄傲地拉起了雪橇，尽管不住地疼痛呻吟。他一直拉到晚上，那晚狗夫在营地篝火旁为他腾开块地方。早晨，大卫虚弱到甚至连爬到雪橇旁都不能了，他躺在雪地里哀叫着，其他狗落下他拉着雪橇出发了。几分钟后他们听到一声枪响，他们停了下来。布克知道，大家都知道，大卫死了。

第9章 布克又获新主人 (p. 56-59)

他们花了三十天的时间才返回到斯凯威。他们都很劳累，布克从过去的 63 公斤瘦成了 52 公斤，其他许多狗都比布克瘦，健康状况极差，派克前腿受了伤，走路来一瘸一拐的，索莱克斯也是一瘸一拐的，达布肩膀受了伤。

所有狗都蹄子疼，乏力，无精神再拉。经过好几周的劳作他们都已精疲力竭，浑身上下每块肌肉、每根骨头都疼。他们在五个月内行程达两千五百英里，真是令人难以置信。

狗儿们和赶狗人都期望在斯凯威做长时间的休整，然而政府邮政部门却另有打算。斯凯威是个繁忙的大镇，有许多矿工生活在那儿，矿工们的爱人儿、妻子和亲人远在家乡。此时斯凯威的邮件量简直是堆积如山，官方命令要尽快将这些邮件传递。信使需要狗拉着装满邮件的雪橇继续上路，但布克这支狗队太劳累了——他们也非常虚弱。

从哈得孙湾新来的狗代替了布克团队。三天过去了，布克他们还很虚弱，又过了四天，有两个美国人没花什么钱就买下了布克他们及套具。布克看到美国人把钱交给了英格兰人，然后信使就不再是布克生活的一部分了，他们像米勒法官、弗朗索瓦、佩罗特和红衣人一样消失了。

这两个美国人叫哈尔和查理。中年人查理长着水汪汪明亮的眼睛，蓄着浓密的长长的胡须。哈尔大约有二十岁，随身带一把柯尔特式左轮手枪和一把猎刀。布克感觉这两人和北方的其他人不一样，不知怎么地就是不一样。

新主人的帐篷不很好，帐篷里又脏又乱，还有一位妇女，他们叫她默西迪斯，她是查理的妻子、哈尔的姐姐。布克看着他们拆了帐篷，装上雪橇，可他们并不擅长做这种事——帐篷根本没有合适地叠起来，金属盘子没有洗过就打包起来。默西迪斯不停在说，在给这两个男人出主意。他们没一人懂得怎样把东西装上雪橇，两个男人把东西装在前面，而默西迪斯却告诉他们装在后面，什么都是乱糟糟的，整个雪橇看上去简直就是一团糟。

从酒馆走出三个人笑话这雪橇装得不是样，“装的太多了，”其中一人说，“这和我没关系，但我觉得你们不应该带帐篷！”

默西迪斯大声叫道，“不！我需要帐篷！”

“现在是春天了，夫人，”这个人回答道，“天气不太冷了，够暖和了，能在露天睡觉了。”

“不，”默西迪斯摇摇头重复说。

哈尔和查理把帐篷和他们所有其他设备一起放在雪橇上。

“你觉得雪橇这样能走吗？”其中一人问。

“能，”查理冷冷地说，他不喜欢这个人还有他提的问题。

“噢，”这人答道。“依我看有点儿重。”

雪橇是很重，布克看看雪橇，他知道将会很难拉。

查理紧了紧系在装备上的绳子，给狗套上套索，他们准备出发了。哈尔抓起鞭子，对着狗甩了起来。

“驾！”他叫道，“驾！驾！”

第10章 新主人的鞭子 (p. 62-65)

狗儿们卖力地挪动雪橇，但就是拉不动——雪橇太重了。

“偷懒的畜生！”哈尔大声嚷着开始用鞭子抽打他们。默西迪斯大叫，“噢，哈尔！”

不要打狗！”她从哈尔手里夺过鞭子，“你必须答应不再伤害狗，否则我就不走了。”

“你对狗不了解！”他说道。“这些狗就是偷懒，想让他们挪动就得用鞭子抽，狗就是那样。去问问别人，问问那儿的那些人。”

默西迪斯望着人们，她为狗儿们难过，其中一人说，“上次的旅行把他们累坏了，现在他们还很虚弱，需要长时间的休整。”

“哼！休整？”哈尔愤愤地说。

默西迪斯为狗儿们喊冤，但她爱她弟弟，也爱面子，于是她对哈尔说，“别在意别人怎么说，你是赶狗人，怎么好就怎么赶吧。”

哈尔又拿起鞭子打狗，狗儿们很劲地拉，把蹄子扎进踩硬的雪里，使出浑身气力拉，雪橇像抛了锚一样纹丝未动。狗儿们喘着粗气停下来。哈尔继续抽打，默西迪斯又插话了，她走到布克面前，双手搂住他的脖子。

“可怜的家伙！”她大声说，“你为什么不拉呢？你不拉，哈尔就抽打你，求求你，快拉吧。”

布克并不喜欢默西迪斯，他是又累又生气。一个旁观者这时大声说，“必须得先助狗一臂之力，橇板冻在雪里了，先把橇板松动一下。”

哈尔松动了橇板，狗儿们又试着拉了一次，雪橇向前移动了。布克和伙伴们挣扎着拉着雪橇，鞭子无情地落在他们的背上。他们向前走一百码就上了主路，这时有个急转弯。哈尔不是个有经验的舵手，拐弯时，雪橇开始向一边倾斜，雪橇上所有的装备都掉在雪地上，但狗儿们没有停下，哈尔如此待他们使他们很生气，他们并不喜欢鞭子。布克暴怒了，于是开始狂跑，其他狗也跟着他狂跑。

哈尔大声喊叫，“吁！吁！”但是狗根本不停，他尽量追着跑，可是雪橇却把他绊倒在雪地上。狗儿们身后拉着雪橇在斯凯威中心奔跑着。最后，一些好心的市民把狗拽住，其他人把装备从街道上收拢起来，并且告诉他们必须减轻雪橇的载重，还告诉他们再多买几条狗。他俩听取了建议，但毕竟固执得很。他们重新安排帐篷，开始重装雪橇。他们取出罐装食物，北方人看到罐头的时候笑了，罐头太重无法带上路，罐装食品在北方只供给最优秀者。一人告诉他们，“取出所有罐装食品，扔掉帐篷，还有那些盘子，谁有时间洗呢？你们以为要去住旅馆吗？装那么多东西雪橇是不会走好的。”

哈尔和查理从雪橇上卸下许多东西。当默西迪斯见自己的衣服箱被取下来后，大声叫喊，她非常生气，把他俩的衣服箱也取下来了。

哈尔和查理新买了六只“外地狗”，这些“外地狗”拉雪橇没什么经验，其中一只只是纽芬兰狗。接着又买了四只短毛猎狗和两只杂种狗。他们个头都大，但不像雪橇狗天生就是拉雪橇的料。现在这只队伍有十四只狗了。

第 11 章 路上的悲剧 (p. 68-71)

布克设法教外地狗拉雪橇，但他们学起来并不容易，他们不喜欢牵索和雪，无精打采地，他们同样不喜欢哈尔虐待他们。

布克知道他的老队友做着大量的工作，他们都太累了，再次踏上征程时根本兴奋不起来。

新主人对拉雪橇和在雪路上行走一无所知，他们还懒惰，甚至连帐篷都不会搭，因而他们不会腾出充足的时间，有时这只队伍甚至连十英里都走不到。俩人给狗所带食物不够走完全程使用，于是他们不得不减少狗每天的配给量，狗儿们又累，又饿，又沮丧。

一天早晨哈尔醒来后发现没剩什么食物给狗吃了，他却设法让狗继续赶路，但狗儿们实在是太虚弱了。达布第一个死去，他当时太饿了，偷他们的食物吃，于是哈尔就鞭责他，此后他的肩膀就弱得再也拉不动雪橇了，于是哈尔用左轮手枪把他毙了。

“外地狗”受苦最多，因为他们食量非常大——靠雪橇狗的配给量根本无法维持生命。纽芬兰狗因饥饿和过度劳累而死，接着三条短毛猎狗死了，最后两条杂种狗也死了。

三人又累又害怕。他们原本以为北方是个浪漫、迷人的地方，但事实并非如此，北方是个无情、原始而又不仁慈的地方。他们充满了疲惫和恐惧，因而变得暴躁异常，动不动就吵嘴。他们深深地为自己难过，根本不顾狗的死活。哈尔和同伴一生气，就打狗，拿狗出气。

在一个名为“五指头”的地方，一个印第安人表示愿意拿出些马肉给狗吃，来交换哈尔的左轮手枪。那马肉硬得像马皮，根本就不是什么好吃的东西，狗儿们依然把它吃了，但还是饿。

布克使出浑身气力拉雪橇，但他是如此衰弱，以至常常摔倒，一摔倒哈尔就用鞭抽他，用棍子打他，布克挣扎着站起来再拉。他的健康状况极差，浑身皮毛失去韧性和光泽，血迹斑斑结成了毡块，肌肉被消耗殆尽，瘦的皮包骨了。

狗队只剩七条狗了，他们看上去像游走的骷髅，既凄惨又疲惫，没有一点精气神。每当雪橇停下，他们便在站着的地方倒下——再也挪不动了。哈尔会取出鞭子抽打他们，直打到他们最后痛苦地站起来再次摇摇晃晃地朝前拉为止。

一天，比利倒下了，再也没有站起来，哈尔不再有枪了，所以他拿了把斧子，击打比利的头，比利立马就断了气。哈尔拖起他的尸体，扔在了路边。布克和对友惊恐地看着，他们知道哈尔也会对他们下此毒手的。第二天，库娜也死了，只剩五条狗了。

春天来了，冰冷的冬雪融化了，但这支小小的凄惨的雪橇队甚至都没有注意到春天来了。花儿处处开放，动物们走出了冬日的家，松鼠吱吱细语，鸟儿婉转歌唱，一天比一天长起来，空气芬芳清新。他们到达了白河河畔的一个营地，是约翰·桑顿的，他坐在一根原木上，看着他们走来。默西迪斯一屁股在约翰·桑顿旁边坐下来，立刻开始哭喊，查理也慢慢地坐下来，狗儿们倒在路上，大家都筋疲力尽了。

哈尔开始说话，约翰·桑顿一言不发地听着。“我们需要停在这儿，路解冻了，

冰化了，太危险不能继续走了，”他说。约翰·桑顿没有回答。“许多人都说每年的这个时候到达白河是不可能的事情，”他继续骄傲地说，“但是我们到了！”

“年轻人，人家说的对，”桑顿静静地回答。“这道路很危险，只有傻子才走这么远的路到这儿，这儿什么都没有，要是阿拉斯加的金子不够多，是不会让我走更远了。”

哈尔生气了，“噢，那么我们必须再返回道森去了，”他蔑视地说，随后他站起身，拿起鞭子，“起来，布克！嘿！起来！驾！驾！”

狗队无法站起来，哈尔狂怒地鞭打着狗。桑顿注视着他，他面如铁石。索莱克斯挣扎着站起，逖克跟着站了起来，乔也跟着站起来，疼的叫个不停，派克想设法站起来，但两次都倒下去了，紧接着他一动不动地倒在了雪地上。布克不愿起来，哈尔多次用鞭子抽他，但他就是不起来，哈尔又拿根大棍打他，但他还是不起来。桑顿再也无法忍受了，他扑向哈尔，把他撞倒在地，默西迪斯吓的尖声大叫起来。

“如果你再打他，”桑顿大声喊道，他气得浑身发抖，“我就杀了你。”

“这是我的狗！”哈尔擦着嘴上的血回答说，“闪开！”

桑顿割断了布克身上的牵索，哈尔告诉查理和默西迪斯套好另外四条狗，掉转方向。他们沿着小路摇摇晃晃地往回返了，可怜的狗儿们痛苦地呻吟着。

约翰·桑顿抚摸着布克寻找骨折的地方，但并未找到。他望着雪橇队慢慢地顺着路走了。几分钟后布克听到了默西迪斯的尖叫声，路上的冰在融化，再也支撑不住沉重的雪橇了，他们所有的，连同人和狗都掉进下面冰冷的河水里，再也没有看到他们上来，只有布克和他的新主人待在一起安然无恙。

第12章 为了对一个人的爱 (p. 74-77)

约翰·桑顿是个善良人，他让布克休息了许多天，渐渐地布克的伤痊愈了，肌肉结实了，体重也增加了。桑顿还有两条狗，斯基特是一条爱尔兰小猎犬，由她来照顾布克；尼格是条大黑狗，他也很友好，两条狗都非常喜欢布克，他们对他一点都不嫉妒。随着布克身体的逐渐恢复，他们一起玩好多种游戏。自从布克到北方以来，他第一次由衷地感到幸福。

桑顿是个好主人。在许多人看来狗就是工作机器，但是桑顿像对自己孩子似的对待狗，他和狗说话，抚慰狗，带狗到森林里散步。布克喜欢感觉桑顿放在他背上的大手——他喜欢新主人。他会数小时地躺在主人身旁观察他的脸，他还会到处跟随着主人，研究他的情感和情绪，他不想让桑顿像其他主人一样从他的生活中溜走——他崇拜他。“布克，”桑顿微笑着说，“你就差不会说话了。”

但是这种居家的生活对布克来说是难以适应的，此时他已成为一只北方狗，原始、粗犷、健壮而凶猛，脸上布满疤痕——他是个斗士，赢过多次战斗。斯基特和尼格从没有打过架，他们是南方狗，温柔而文明。布克安静地卧在桑顿身旁，思考着现在拥有的舒适的生活，他也回忆过去，他想起了和狼、狗的战斗以及雪路上的艰辛。他常听到野狼从远方荒野中的呼唤，他想奔向它们——这是他的本性，他反而靠近桑顿展洋洋地躺在火堆旁做起梦来。

布克一切都听主人的。一天，桑顿和他的两个朋友皮特和汉斯坐在一座高山的岩礁上。桑顿开玩笑说，“跳，布克！开始，跳！”

岩礁高有三百多英尺，但布克向下跳了，因为主人告诉他跳，幸亏桑顿及时抓住他，把他拉到安全地带。

“呼！那狗真忠诚，”皮特说。

“布克的忠诚是可怕的，”桑顿回答说，“这种忠诚是极好的，但也是可怕的。”

“谁想伤害你都将倒大霉，”皮特逗趣地说。“布克的牙是非常锋利的。”

一天，有个人的确想伤害桑顿。“黑人”伯敦在镇上的一个酒吧和布克的主人寻衅打架，他打桑顿，桑顿摔倒了，布克注视着，开始狂怒地吼叫，接着他一跃而起扑向伯敦，朝着他的喉咙撕咬开了。伯敦跌倒在地上，鲜血从脖子流出来。

他惊恐地尖叫，人群中有人抓住了布克，把他从伯敦身上拽开，大家在大声叫喊。后来镇上的矿工开了个会议，他们认定是伯敦挑起的事端，因而把布克还给了主人。但是大家都知道布克是一条多么凶猛、忠诚的狗了。很快他就在整个阿拉斯加闻名了。

后来在这一年里，布克再次救了桑顿的性命。桑顿和汉斯、皮特一起沿着四十里小溪划独木舟，汉斯和皮特先上了岸，桑顿留在小舟里，布克蹲在岸上，他在担心主人的安全。

突然一股急流掀翻了小舟，把桑顿顺流卷走，河水来势凶猛，没有谁能逆流而游。布克跳进河里，追着主人游过去，汹涌的河水把他推了回去，但他坚持向前游，终于他用牙齿叼住了桑顿的衣服，用尽浑身气力拽着桑顿在汹涌的河水里慢慢地朝岸边游，但甚至对布克而言，水流都太猛烈了，桑顿的身体撞到了岩石，他知道不会到达河岸了，他抓在滑滑的岩石上。

“走，布克，走！”桑顿大声喊，布克听到命令后向岸边游去。汉斯和皮特把他从水里拉出，接着他们顺着河岸跑去救桑顿，因为他们知道桑顿只能在湿滑的岩石上支撑一小会儿。他们把绳子扔给桑顿，把绳子的另一端系在布克的肩上，他像过去拉雪橇那样拼命地拉起绳子，慢慢地把主人拉上了岸。虽然桑顿很虚弱，但他还是搂住布克的脖子，深情地拥抱他。自从这次可怕的风险之后布克身上断了些骨头，大病了好几天，但对主人的挚爱给了他活下去的决心，也拯救了他的性命。

第 13 章 桑顿赌赢了 (p. 80-83)

那年冬天又发生了一件事情，从而使布克在整个北方都出了名。约翰·桑顿在爱尔多拉多沙龙，人们正在那儿吹嘘自己最喜欢的狗，他们是想找到一条比布克出色的狗，但桑顿总是护着布克。一个人说他的狗能拉二百二十千克，另一人夸口说他的狗拉二百七十千克，第三个人说他的能拉三百二十千克！

“噫！噫！”桑顿说，“那无所谓，布克能拉四百五十千克！”

“啊，是吗？”刚才说自己的狗能拉三百二十千克的马修顿说道，“能拉那么重走一百米吗？”

“当然能，”桑顿骄傲地回答。

“好，”马修顿故意大声说，他想让大家都能听到他的话，“我赌一千块，放这儿，我说你的狗拉不动四百五十千克。”他砰地一声把香肠那么大的一袋金子放在吧台上。

“外面我的雪橇上装着二十袋二十五千克的面粉，”他继续说道，“咱们去看看。”

有一会儿没有谁说话，桑顿感到有点担心，对于布克能否拉那么重他不是真正有把握。四百五十千克呀！他知道布克很强壮，但现在他得把赌注下在自己轻率的话上。所有人都看着桑顿，等他说话，但他没有一千元，汉斯和皮特也没有那么多钱！他们面面相觑，他不知该说什么，紧接着他看到老朋友吉姆·奥布赖恩。“你能借给我一千块吗？”他对他耳语道。

“当然，我的朋友，”奥布赖恩说着把金袋放在马修顿的旁边。“我不知道布克能否拉得动，但我当然希望他能行，”奥布赖恩对桑顿说。

大家都从酒吧走出去看布克拉雪橇，酒吧外的人也来观看了，大街上有几百人，许多人都把赌注下在布克身上，一些人认为他行，一些人认为他不行。

天气很冷，大约零下 60℃，滑板都冻在了地上。桑顿把把滑板从冰上敲打开，他看看雪橇，心里想，“我觉得布克拉不动这么重的雪橇。”

马修顿看出形势对桑顿更加不利。

“我想再赌一千元！”他目中无人地嚷嚷着。

桑顿很紧张，但他有斗争精神，所以把汉斯和皮特叫到他身边。尽管他们总共只有二百元，但还是把钱挨着马修顿的放下了。

布克被套在雪橇上，他明白自己必须为主人做件伟大的事情，大家都在谈论布克看上去是多么多么的好，皮毛闪亮而健美，肌肉发达而结实。

“噢，先生！噢，先生！”一个人说道，“我出八百块买这条狗！”

桑顿摇摇头走到布克身边，人群安静下来了，他平静地对布克说，“因为你爱我，布克，因为你爱我，”他低语道。

就在桑顿站起身时，布克咬住了他的手套，抬头看了看他的眼睛，然后慢慢地松开了。这就是布克的回答，虽然他不会说话，但他仍然能表达自己伟大的爱。

桑顿向后退去，“开始，布克！”他大声喊。

布克拉紧了牵索，朝右面摆了摆，雪橇缓缓地移动了，他又朝左面摆摆，这次移动的更多了，人群都屏住了呼吸。

“好，驾！”桑顿大喊。布克整个身体前倾，低胸伏地，使出浑身气力拉雪橇。雪橇开始一寸寸朝前移动了，随即雪橇移动得更快了，接着他便缓慢而平稳地拉起来。桑顿跟在他后面，鼓励着他，布克拉呀，拉呀，人们声音越来越高地为他喝彩。很快人群就愉快地喊起来！布克跨过了一百米标识！人们高兴地把帽子和手套抛向空中。

桑顿跪在布克身旁，把他的头拥在怀中。

“天哪，先生！天哪，先生！”那个想买狗的人又说话了，“我出一千块！”

桑顿站起身，他的眼睛湿润了。“不，先生，”他说，“他不是来出售的！他永远是我的朋友。”

布克看了看桑顿，又咬住了他的手套。他们是最好的朋友。

第 14 章 呼唤之声 (p. 88-91)

桑顿、汉斯和皮特决定设法去找寻“失踪的金矿”，关于这个金矿有个古老的传说，传说许多人寻找金矿，却很少有人能找到，更多的人则是踏上了一条不归路。人们还传说在金矿附近有一个古老的木屋叫“失踪的木屋”，木屋里有许多金子，但非普通人能够获得，于是，桑顿、汉斯、皮特、布克带一队狗去寻找这个地方。

他们沿育空河而上走了七十英里。桑顿不害怕茫茫荒野，布克喜欢这种生活。数周以来，这支队伍在严酷的北方穿行。两个月过去了，他们穿越了几乎无人到过的地方。秋天，他们来到一个奇怪的、不为人知的湖泊地带，那里寂静而显悲凉，没有一点儿生命的迹象。他们继续行走，又度过了冬天，终于在冬天结束的时候，他们在遥远的地方找到了个小木屋，他们走进木屋，但他们所能找到的全部东西是腐烂的旧毛毯、一些毁坏的家具和一杆枪。

春天到了，他们还是没有找到传说中的“失踪的木屋”，但是一天他们终于在一条峡谷里找到一条小溪，溪水里有许多金子。于是他们决定呆下来，每天人们用淘盘淘洗金子。他们在清澈的山泉中淘到大大的金块和金沙，每天都能从溪水里淘到价值数千元的金子。人们把金子装在许多袋里，每袋都有二十公斤重。

人们淘金时狗儿们无事可做，有时他们把桑顿在森林捕杀的猎物拉回营地。布克一连好几个钟头卧在篝火旁做梦，他常梦到那个矮个毛人，他看到毛人双手抱头睡在篝火旁，他在毛人身边奔跑，他们一起去打猎，去钓鱼。布克在这个奇怪的梦境中有种回家的感觉。

在这期间布克也听到“野性的呼唤”，他听到那声音回荡在他的血脉中，有时他跑到森林里去寻找它，感觉它是真实的东西，觉得能够看到它。他把鼻子放在凉爽的苔藓中或黑色的泥土中，有时会静静地呆上好大一会儿。他希望能够找到这呼唤，这种来自荒野的奇怪感觉搅动了他的感官，使他有了奔跑下去的冲动。有时当他在温暖的阳光下睡觉时，他会突然抬起头，竖起耳朵听，于是他跳起来，跑进森林。他跑过树林，越过开阔地，在河流、小溪边奔跑。他喜欢观看生活在那儿的鸟儿和动物，有时他会花上一整天仅为观看鸬鹚。

一天晚上，布克睡觉时听到一种声音——低沉的长嚎，他没有认出那声音，没有狗会发出那种声音，但是他内心的什么东西在涌动。布克一跃而起，跑进黑暗、寂静的森林。他离那声音更近了，他更慢、更谨慎地挪动着。很快他来到一片开

阔地带，一条瘦长的大灰狼站立在那儿，鼻子直指向天空。

布克没有出声，但是狼不再嚎叫了，而是安静地站着，它知道布克在那儿站着，当它看到布克时跑开了，但布克紧追其后，狼转过身对着布克怒吼，露出牙齿试图咬布克，但布克没有还击。他围着狼转圈，试图向它示好，但狼充满了疑虑和恐惧。接着狼看到树木中的一个缺口，跑掉了。布克追了它好大一会儿，终于狼明白布克不是敌人，于是他们一起碰碰鼻子，成了朋友，一起玩耍。狼跑在布克前面——他想让布克跟随他。他们并肩跑过森林，布克明白这就是那呼唤，他明白这就是自由，他也明白这就是他生来要过的生活。

布克和狼停在小溪边喝水，接着布克想起了约翰·桑顿。他坐下来，狼又开始跑，但是布克没有动，狼又返回来，他想让布克和他一起走，但他又做不到。布克站起身，开始返回营地，狼跟着他跑了个把小时，它有些搞不懂。布克继续朝营地返，然后狼坐下来，把鼻子指向天空，开始悲伤地嚎叫。布克继续朝营地跑，很快他就只能听到远处模糊的嚎叫声，接着什么也听不到了。

第15章 布克回归荒野 (p. 94-97)

布克返回营地时，约翰·桑顿正在吃饭。布克扑到他身上，高兴的又是舔脸，又是咬手的。两天来布克都没有离开营地，总是呆在桑顿身旁，但他会想起他的野狼兄弟。一旦有可能，他便返回森林去寻找，但野狼并没有在森林里。

布克夜间开始在外面睡觉。一连多日他离开营地，继续寻找野狼。一返回森林里，他的本性就活跃起来。一天他咬死只动物来吃肉，就在他两天后返回时看到十几只狼獾快把肉吃光了，他赶跑了他们。他成了只猎兽，捕杀猎物吃肉，在河里逮三文鱼吃。有一天，他甚至杀死一只大黑熊。他是个猛兽，寻找着猎物。他能够独自生活在如此严酷的环境中，为此他感到自豪，因为他明白只有最强壮的动物才能够在此生存，他也为自己结实的身體和猎杀动物的能力而自豪，他自豪自己能够像他的野狼兄弟一样生活。

现在布克的思维和行动都和狼一样了，他的视觉、听觉和嗅觉变得异常灵敏，他机智，跑得快。当看到林中有移动的影子他就快速跑开，当听到什么动静他就调转过身来，他的肌肉结实得像钢，他的热血因精力充沛而鲜活。“没有什么狗能比得上布克，”一天约翰·桑顿说。

营地里的人都注视着布克。“也不会再有什么狗能像他一样了。”皮特说，“他是个特别的家伙。”

“肯定的，”桑顿说。

布克在营地里与众不同，他昏昏欲睡而懒惰，还让桑顿爱抚他。他躺在主人身旁或跟随他左右，是主人的伙伴。但是在森林里，布克却变了，行动快速而无声息，没有什么动物能逃过他的手心，他逮鱼、河狸和兔子，是个自信的猎兽。

一天，他看到一群驼鹿，于是追赶鹿群。一只公鹿独自对付他，布克围着公鹿

兜圈子，公鹿向他冲过来。布克又尾随鹿群。就这样他和公鹿对峙了三天，他很有耐心，也不疲惫。在第四天，他多次进攻公鹿，很快公鹿就变得虚弱不堪，最终布克把公鹿杀了。他感到骄傲。此刻他比以前更强壮了。

狩猎后，布克决定返回营地。他在森林里发现一条刚踏过的小径，于是顺着小径过去。过了一会儿，他看到尼格躺在地上，他身上中剑，死了。又沿着小路往前走了一百米，布克看到桑顿的一只雪橇狗，也死了。

布克到了营地，看到汉斯满身中剑，倒在地上死了。布克看到附近有几个耶汉兹部落的印第安人绕着木屋跳舞，他非常生气，这是他的营地。他扑向其中一个印第安人，撕咬他的喉咙。他又扑向另一个印第安人，也把他杀了。印第安人设法用剑射杀布克，但他都躲过去了。印第安人害怕布克了，他们无法杀死他，所以他们认为布克是魔鬼。他把他们从木屋赶跑了。

布克返回营地，在营地他找到皮特的尸体。他内心充满了悲伤，来到小河边，那里很安静，在河边他找到主人约翰·桑顿，主人死了。布克呆在河边，不停地哭嚎，他的内心有种可怕的空虚，他最好的朋友死了，他的心在疼痛，他闻闻主人的尸体，心想人死得竟如此之易。

晚上，月亮明亮地挂在天空中，布克感觉自己的野性复苏了，他听到森林里野狼兄弟的声音，于是他跑回到遇见大灰狼的地方，声音更大了，这次他准备听从这“呼唤”。他的主人约翰·桑顿死了，他和人类最后的联系也消失了。

布克找到了那群狼，他们正在吃驼鹿肉。一只老狼走向布克，他们碰碰鼻子，此刻这呼唤在布克内心非常强烈。他坐下来，把鼻子伸向天空，开始长长地、大声地嚎叫。其他狼也跟着嚎叫起来。

布克的故事到此就结束了。接下来他又发生了什么，我们不得而知，但是北方的耶汉兹印第安人仍在谈论遥远的森林中一只强大的“狗魔”的故事，他们害怕他。他们说他们盗粮，抢劫陷阱里的食物，咬死他们的狗。这只狗不总是单独行动，常常有许多狼跟随他，他跑在一大群狼的前面。他高高地跃向空中，嚎叫着野性的呼唤。

背景知识

杰克·伦敦生平

1876 约翰·格里菲斯·伦敦出生于圣弗兰西斯科，母亲弗洛拉·威尔蒙，未婚。许多人认为他的父亲是威廉姆·切尼，一位记者、律师兼天文学家。因为他的母亲患病，年幼的他由一位名叫弗吉尼亚的前奴隶照料，他外号叫杰克。

1882 杰克在加利福尼亚的奥克兰上学。

1890 杰克辍学。他做过多种工作，他先在圣弗兰西斯科的一家工厂做工，后来捡过牡蛎，轮船上当过水手，还横穿美国旅行。

1895 杰克返回学校读高中。他爱好政治，他也喜欢阅读并且开始写小说，他描写那个时期工厂工人可怕的工作环境。他把所写的小说、轶事和诗歌寄给杂志社，但并没有取得多大成功。

1897 杰克听说了克朗代克淘金热的事情，于是他和四个朋友决定去那里淘金。他们建造了一条小船，沿育空河潮流而上去寻找金子。

1898 杰克患重病，不得不离开克朗代克，返回加利福尼亚。

1899 杰克的第一个小说集在美国印刷发行，其中许多故事是描写克朗代克及他在那里原始环境中的冒险经历的。

1900 杰克与贝丝玛德结婚。

1903 杰克撰写了“野性的呼唤”，这个故事描写了阿拉斯加淘金热及在那里劳作的雪橇狗的生活，是他最受欢迎的作品，世界人民都喜欢阅读这篇小说。

1916 杰克一生中经常生病。大约在这个时间他患上肾病，死于这一年的十一月二十二日。

克朗代克

斯凯威和岱亚位于金场以南六百英里的地方，是通向克朗代克地区最近的咸水港，许多矿工住在这些城镇。这两条乘雪橇到达克朗代克的最受欢迎的路线有出发点，从斯凯威出发，矿工们走叫“白色通道”的路线，从岱亚出发，他们走叫“切尔库特通道”的路线。

两天前，斯古库穆·吉姆是贫穷的，今天他非常富裕了。吉姆与他的朋友塔基史·查理还有他姐夫乔治·卡曼克在克朗代克发现了金子，许多的金子。吉姆给我们讲了他的故事：

“八月十七日——发现日，我们三人在一个叫‘兔子河’的地方的小河水里淘金。乔治说前天晚上他梦到长着金眼睛的鱼！那天好可爱，太阳照在河水上，突然我看到什么东西在闪闪发光，我们找到金子啦！接着我们发现了更多的金子！我们干了一整天，装了许多袋金子。我们极为喜悦。这是条幸运之河，于是我们改了它的名字，现在我们叫它‘财运河’。”

词汇表

A

to ache *v.* 疼痛
to act *v.* 行动; 起作用
alert *adj.* 机敏的; 机警的
amount *n.* 数量; 总数
anchor *n.* 锚
anecdote *n.* 轶事
anyone *pro.* 任何人
anything *pro.* 任何东西
to arch your back 拱起背
at all 一点; 无论如何
to avoid *v.* 避免
axe *n.* 斧

B

back *n.* 背; 后背
back and forth 反复来回
bacon *n.* 烤猪肉; 咸猪肉
baggage car 行李车厢
to bare his teeth 暴露出牙齿
to bark *v.* 叫
to be used *v.* 习惯于...
to be worth *v.* 值...
to beat *v.* 接连地打; 击
best *adj.* 最好的
blood *n.* 血
bloody *adj.* 血腥的; 流血的
bones *n.* 骨头
breathe *v.* 呼吸
buried *v.* 埋
busiest *adj.* 最忙碌的

C

cage *n.* 笼子
canned *adj.* 罐装的
to care *v.* 介意; 关心
caught, to catch *v.* 抓住; 逮住
to challenge *v.* 挑战

to chase *v.* 追逐; 追赶
chest *n.* 胸; 胸膛
to choke *v.* (使)窒息; (使)呼吸困难
chunk *n.* 大块; 厚块
to circle *v.* 在...上画圆圈
coat *n.* (动物的皮毛)毛皮
to cover *v.* 遮盖; 遮蔽
to cower away 退缩; 畏缩
to crawl *v.* 爬; 爬行
crazy *adj.* 疯狂的; 着迷的
to crush *v.* 压碎; 挤压变形
to cry *v.* 哭; 哭泣
to curl up 蜷卧; 蜷曲

D

danger *n.* 危险
to dare *v.* 敢
to dig *v.* 挖
discipline *n.* 纪律
disease *n.* 疾病
to disobey *v.* 不遵守
disturbing *adj.* 令人不安的
to dodge *v.* 避开; 闪开
to drip *v.* 滴下; 充满
dry *v.* 把...弄干

E

empty *adj.* 空的; 空虚的
enemy *n.* 敌人
enough *adj.* 足够的
entire *adj.* 整个的
equipment *n.* 设备
exasperated *adj.* 恼怒地
exhausted *adj.* 精疲力竭的
to expect *v.* 期望; 期盼

F

fair *adj.* 公平的; 公正的
fair play 公平交易

fang *n.* 尖牙
 fed *v.* 喂
 to fight to the death 战斗到死
 fireplace *n.* 壁炉
 firewood *n.* 柴火; 木柴
 flat *adj.* 平的
 to fly *v.* 飞; 飞行
 folded *v.* 被折叠
 food *n.* 食物; 食品
 foreign *adj.* 外国的; 从外国来的
 frantically *adv.* 发狂似地
 to freeze *v.* 结冰; 冷冻
 fresher *adj.* 更新鲜
 to frighten *v.* 使受到惊吓
 frightened *adj.* 恐惧的; 害怕的
 frozen *adj.* 结冰的
 furious *adj.* 狂怒的; 暴怒的
 furry *adj.* 皮毛的; 毛茸茸的

G

gambling *n.* 投机; 冒风险
 to get together 相聚, 聚会
 to gather up 使集拢
 to give in *v.* 屈服; 让步
 glacier *n.* 冰川; 冰
 to go crazy 发疯
 gold *n.* 金子
 gold miner 金矿工人
 to grab *v.* 抓住; 抢占
 ground *n.* 地面
 growl *v.* 咆哮; 低声地吼叫
 to grumble *v.* 埋怨
 to gulp down 狼吞虎咽; 匆匆吞吃
 gunshot *n.* 枪声

H

hairless *adj.* 秃头的; 秃顶的
 hairy *adj.* (身体)多毛的
 hard *adv.* 用力地
 to harness *v.* 把...系到车上
 harness *n.* 牵索

healthy *adj.* 结实的; 健康的
 hearing *n.* 听觉
 helpless *adj.* 无力采取行动自救的;
 无助的
 to howl *v.* 嗥叫; 咆哮
 to hug *v.* 拥抱
 hunger *n.* 饥饿; 渴望
 to hunt *v.* 狩猎
 hurt *v.* 弄疼; 使受伤

I

in pain 疼痛; 在苦恼中
 indoors *adv.* 在室内; 在屋里
 iron *n.* 铁
 It's none of my business. 这与我无关。

J

jaw *n.* 颌; 颚; 下巴
 to jump *v.* 跳; 跳跃

K

kidney *n.* 肾
 to knock (to the ground) *v.* 撞; 碰
 knowledge *n.* 知识; 了解

L

Lazy brutes! 偷懒的畜生!
 to lead *v.* 引领; 领路
 to lean over 侧翻
 to lick *v.* 舔
 to lie down 躺下
 light *adj.* 明亮的
 to lighten *v.* 减轻; 减缓
 to limp *v.* 一瘸一拐地走
 lip *v.* 舔
 to load *v.* 装载
 log *n.* 原木
 lonely *adj.* 孤独的
 look after 照看
 to loosen (使)变松
 loud *adv.* 高声地

M

mail carrier 信使
to make good time 腾出充足时间
to make room for 为...腾地方
to make trouble 给...制造麻烦
to manage *v.* 管理
master *n.* 主人
matted *adj.* 缠结的; 纠结的
mean *adj.* 刻薄的; 吝啬的
menacingly *adv.* 威胁性地; 恐吓地
mess *n.* 混乱
Mexican hairless dog 墨西哥无毛狗
mining town 采矿小镇
to miss *v.* 未击中
mongrel *n.* 杂种动物(尤指杂种狗)
moody *adj.* 不高兴的; 情绪多变的
moose *n.* 驼鹿
mud *n.* 泥; 烂泥
muscle *n.* 肌肉
mustache *n.* 小胡子

N

Never mind. 别担心。
Newfoundland dog 纽芬兰狗
nightmare *n.* 噩梦; 梦魔
to nip *v.* 咬
no longer *adv.* 不再
noise *n.* 嘈杂声; 喧闹声

O

to obey *v.* 服从; 遵守
order *n.* 命令
owner *n.* 所有人; 物主

P

pack *n.* 一群
painfully *adv.* 痛苦地
to pant *v.* 喘息
pasture *n.* 牧场
to pat *v.* 轻拍; 轻打
path *n.* 小径; 小道
piece *n.* 碎块; 碎片

to pitch a tent 搭帐篷
pleasant *adj.* 令人愉快的
pleased *adj.* 高兴的
poke *v.* 戳; 刺
poor *adj.* 不佳的
power *n.* 权力
printed *v.* 印(书)
propeller *n.* 推进器
proud *adj.* 自豪的
pug dog 哈巴狗
to punish *v.* 惩罚

Q

to quit *v.* 停止(做某事)

R

ration *n.* 配给量
ravenously *adv.* 威胁地
to reach *v.* 到达
to rest *v.* 休息
restless *adj.* 没有真正休息的; 没有睡眠的
to retreat *v.* 退却
revolver *n.* 左轮手枪
to rip *v.* 撕; 扯
rope *n.* 绳子
route *n.* 路线
to rub *v.* 摩擦
rule *n.* 法则; 规则
to run away 逃跑; 私奔
runner *n.* 滑板

S

saloon *n.* 酒吧
to save *v.* 拯救
scar *n.* 伤疤; 伤痕
shadow *n.* 阴暗; 阴影
to shake your head 摇摇头
sharp *adj.* 锋利的
to shiver *v.* 颤抖; 哆嗦
silly *adj.* 傻的; 愚昧的
skin *n.* 皮; 毛皮

sled *n.* 雪橇
 sleeping bag 睡袋
 slice *n.* 片; 切片
 smarter *adj.* 更聪明的
 to snarl *v.* 咆哮; 吼
 to sniff *v.* 嗅
 snowdrift *n.* 雪堆
 somehow *adv.* 不知怎么地
 sore *adj.* 疼的; 疼痛的
 to spill out 涌出; 溅出
 to spring at 向跃起
 to squeal *v.* 发出长而尖锐的叫声
 stable *n.* 马厩
 to stand still 静静地站着
 steal *v.* 偷; 窃取
 stick *n.* 棍子
 stiff *adj.* 僵直的; 硬的
 straps and buckles 皮带和扣环
 to stretch out 伸展; 伸开
 strict *adj.* 严格的
 to strike *v.* 打; 击
 to struggle *v.* 挣扎; 努力
 stubborn *adj.* 固执的
 stuck *adj.* 无法移动的; 动不了的
 stuff *n.* 东西
 to surround *v.* 围绕; 环绕
 to survive *v.* 幸存; 活下来
 sweetheart *n.* 爱人; 恋人; 情人

T

to take advantage of 利用
 to take down 拆卸开
 to take over 接任; 接替
 teammate *n.* 队友
 to tear *v.* 撕
 tent *n.* 帐篷
 to thaw *v.* 融化
 thief *n.* 贼
 throat *n.* 喉咙
 tie up 拴起; 系起
 to tighten *v.* (使)变紧; (使)绷紧

tiring *adj.* 令人劳累的
 toe *n.* 脚趾
 tongue *n.* 舌头
 torn *adj.*
 touch *v.* 触着; 碰到
 trail *n.* 小路
 trapped *v.* past participle of trap 用捕捉器捕获猎物
 to trick *v.* 欺骗
 to trip up 绊倒
 trouble *n.* 麻烦

V

vicious *adj.* 凶恶的; 恶毒的
 victim *n.* 牺牲品

W

to wag *v.* 摇; 摆动
 to waste *v.* 浪费
 war *n.* 战争
 watery *adj.* 含水太多的
 way *n.* 方式; 方法
 to weigh *v.* 重; 重量有
 weight *n.* 重量; 体重
 to welcome *v.* 欢迎
 wet *adj.* 湿的
 whenever *conj.* 每当; 每次
 to whimper *v.* 发出微弱的叫声
 to whip *v.* 用鞭子打
 wild *adj.* 野生的; 野性的
 wilderness *n.* 荒野; 荒芜的地方
 worn *adj.* 穿旧的
 wound *n.* 伤口; 创伤
 wounded *adj.* 受伤的
 wriggle *n.* 扭动; 蠕动
 wristwatch *n.* 手表

Y

to yelp *v.* (因痛苦、兴奋等)尖声叫喊
 yard *n.* 码

参考答案

第1章

p. 4

1. d)

p. 5

2. husky-b, baggage car-c, miner-a,
judge-d, gardener-e

p. 8

3. 1) Judge Miller 2) in the country
3) look for gold 4) bad
5) \$100 6) on a train

4. Buck-a strong and furry dog,
Judge Miller-Buck's owner,
Toots-a Japanese pug dog,
Manuel-the gardener,
Ysabel-a Mexican hairless dog

p. 9

6. 100, 55, 12, 323

7. hungry-full, happy-sad, loves-hates,
laugh-cry, stop-start

8. strong, lives, loves, steals, sells, kind,
cage, looks, dirty, sticks, happy

第2章

p. 13

2. dogs, cages, boxes, noses, babies,
wives, teeth

p. 16

3. 1) F 2) F 3) F 4) F 5) T 6) F 7) F

4. mean, poor, violent, unfriendly

5. Spitz-a clever, white husky

Curly-a big, friendly Newfoundland
dog

Dave-a moody, depressed dog

6. a) Buck is feeling the white stuff on

the shore.

b) Buck is eating a piece of meat from
the red-sweater man's hand.

7. 1) likes 2) lives, speaks 3) eats
4) rains 5) isn't

8. stops, jumps, hits, stick, obey,
Perrault, dollars, Spitz, Dave, ship,
snow

第3章

p. 18

2. whip 鞭子 axe 斧
firewood 柴火; 木柴
sled 雪橇 harness 牵索
fangs 尖牙 jaws 颌

p. 22

4. 1) Curly fights with a large male
husky.

2) The husky wins the fight.

3) They hit the dogs again and again.

4) Spitz is the leader of the dogsled
team.

5) It's a law of pain and power. Only
the strong survive here.

5. 1) runners 2) strap 3) harness
4) load 5) whip

p. 23

6. the red sweater man: dirty, harsh

Francois: stern, big

Perrault: foreign, fair, calm

7. growl 咆哮; 低沉地吼叫

bark (狗)叫; 吠

nip 咬; 掐

bite 咬; 咬住; 咬掉

sniff 吸着气闻; 嗅

yelp (因痛苦、兴奋等而)尖声叫喊

8. 1) must come 2) mustn't drive
3) must phone 4) must drive
5) mustn't touch

第4章

p. 24

1. 1) F 2) F 3) F 4) F 5) F 6) T

p. 25

2. b)

p. 28

3. 1) T 2) F 3) F 4) F 5) F 6) F

4. fire 火 dishes 碟; 盘

cooking utensils 烹调用具

tent 帐篷 blankets 毛毯

firewood 木柴; 柴火

5. 1) under 2) on 3) outside
4) inside 5) next to

p. 29

6. cold-snow, canvas-tent, wooden-poles,
sleeping-dogs, leather-harness

7. 1) taller 2) longer

3) more expensive

4) more intelligent

5) happier

8. c-b-d-a-e-g-f

第5章

p. 32

1. 1) F 2) T 3) F 4) F 5) F

p. 33

3. 1) smells 2) hear

3) tastes 4) see

p. 36

4. 1) Because he knows it's time to teach
him a lesson.

2) They look like huskies.

3) He throws his stick at the wolf and
hits them with the stick.

4) Because the box breaks into pieces.

5) Three wolves tear and rip Buck's
shoulder.

6) Joe loses his eye.

5. A-Buck:

his muscles are as hard as iron

is strong and smart

smells very well

is a great survivor

makes waterholes in the thin ice

has acute hearing

is a great fighter

B-wolves:

have bones showing through their skin

eat ravenously

are mad with hunger

are savage animals

move steadily

6. quiet—quietly, quick—quickly,

close—close, noise—noisily,

kind—kindly

1) noisily 2) kindly 3) close

4) quietly 5) quickly

7. 1) thinner 2) hungrier 3) fatter

4) more worried 5) colder

8. a) cuts

b) eats

c) is bleeding

d) dislikes

e) loses

f) make

g) gulp

f-a-b-d-g-c-e

第6章

p. 39

2. a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4

p. 42

3. 1) F 2) F 3) F 4) F 5) F 6) F 7) F

4. 1) Perrault falls through the ice.

2) Buck limps.

- 3) Francois rub Buck's feet.
- 4) Dolly goes crazy and howls.
- 5) Dave finds a snow rabbit.
- 6) Buck skills Spitz.

5. to dry 把...弄干

to warm 使温暖; 使暖和

to limp 一瘸一拐地走

to escape 逃跑; 逃脱

to threaten 威胁; 恐吓

to chase 追逐; 追捕

to surround 围住; 围绕

6. 1) limp 2) warms
- 3) escapes 4) dry
- 5) chases 6) surround

7. 1) When 2) Where 3) What
- 4) Which 5) Why

1) After a few days the dogsled team get to Thirty Mile River.

2) At Hootalinqua they find solid ice.

3) The thick ice is on Dave and Buck's coats.

4) The dogs chase a snow rabbit through the forest.

5) Because Buck kills him.

第 7 章

p. 44

1. e-d-f-a-b-g-c

2. PLACES: Yukon Dawson

Hootalinqua

EQUIPMENT FOR THE TRIP:

harness sled tent plates whip

firewood cooking utensils

VERBS ABOUT DOGS: growl bark

bite yelp snarl sniff

p. 48

3. 1) dead in the forest

2) the team leader

3) throws down his stick

4) smart and quick

5) two

5. chase 追赶 retreat 退却

approach 接近 dodge 躲开

waste 浪费

give in 屈服; 让步

behave 表现得体

manage 管理 punish 惩罚

p. 49

6. 1) highest 2) largest 3) worst

4) most difficult 5) best

7. 2) Perrault is the best owner.

3) The temperature is the coldest.

4) The dog-team in the happiest.

5) Buck is the smartest and quickest.

8. c-d-a-b-e-f-g

第 8 章

p. 51

2. cooking-breakfast

building-fires

cutting-wood for fire

p. 54

3. 1) Because he sells the dogsled team to a Scottish man.

2) A Scottish man.

3) The dogsleds are carrying the heavy mail.

4) He dreams about another fire with another man sitting by it, in another time.

5) They travel one thousand eight hundred miles.

6) Dave is dead.

5. long hair matted hair short wears animal skins strong

6. 1) Buck likes to lie stretched out near the fire.

2) Each dog has a different personality.

3) Now Buck must pull with new dogs.

4) It snows every day.

Buck likes every dog.

8. hard, excellent, dreams, another, works, sick, many, strength, cries, work, shoot

第9章

p. 56

1. busy, enormous, large

p. 60

3. 1) F 2) F 3) F 4) F 5) F

1) It takes the team thirty days to reach Skagway.

2) All the dogs are very thin now.

3) The Scottish man sells the team to two Americans.

4) The new owners' tent is dirty and disorganized.

5) The new owners don't know very much about loading the sled.

4. The dogs travel slowly through the very thick snow. slowly, very
The sled is extremely heavy and it snows constantly, extremely, constantly

The new owners treat the dogs badly. badly

They don't know very much about traveling on the trail. very much

p. 61

5. 63-Buck used to weigh 63 kilograms.

52-He weighs only 52 kilograms.

2500-In five months, they travel an incredible two thousand five hundred miles.

20-Hal is about 20 years old.

6. quick—quickly easy—easily

quiet—quietly terrible—terribly

clear—clearly loud—loudly

7. a) too b) too c) too

d) enough e) enough

8. 30, tired, rest, deliver, start, Fresh

第10章

p. 62

1. Mercedes-is Hal's sister and Charles' wife.

Hal-is twenty years old.

Charles-is middle-aged with a long mustache.

p. 63

2. a)-2 b)-1 c)-3 d)-4

3. 1) It is Hal's gun. It's his.

3) It's Charles' mustache. It's his.

4) They are Buck's feet. They are his.

p. 66

4. a-2 b-1 c-4 d-3

5. 1) b, d 2) a, c, d 3) a, b, c

6. to load 装车、船等 to lighten 减轻

to repack 重新打包 to remove 移动

to put on 安排

to get rid of 摆脱,; 除去

to throw away 扔掉

p. 67

7. 2) Mercedes cries as loud as a baby.

3) The sled is as heavy as a ship.

4) That man is as strong as a horse.

5) My little sister is as tall as me.

8. d-e-b-f-c-a-g

第11章

p. 68

1. 1) He was born in Santa Clara,

California.

- 2) Manuel, a gardener at Judge Miller's place.
- 3) Curly is a big, friendly Newfoundland dog.
- 4) Spitz was Buck's enemy.
- 5) The dog team was at Lake Le Barge.
- 6) Dolly.
- 7) Two Americans, Hal and Charles.

2. a b d

p. 72

3. 1) F 2) F 3) F 4) F 5) F 6) F
4. a-5 b-4 c-2 d-3 e-1 f-6

p. 73

5. fair silent calm strong experienced
compassionate good
6. stiff dull blood gone thin miserable
7. dogs-bark squirrels-chatter birds-sing
bear-growl wolf-howl
8. 1) is rising 2) are you doing
3) is looking 4) is playing
5) am working

第 12 章

p. 74

1. love 爱
compassion 同情; 怜悯
kindness 善良 hate 恨
cruelty 残酷 jealousy 嫉妒

p. 78

3. 1) F 2) T 3) F 4) F 5) F 6) T
- 1) Thornton is kind to his dog.
- 3) Buck remembers the past.
- 4) A man picks a fight with Thornton in the saloon bar.
- 5) Thornton falls into the creek.
4. 1) They are sitting on a large mountain

ledge.

- 2) Thornton tells Buck to jump.
- 3) Buck jumps.
- 4) Thornton grabs him just in time and pulls him to safety.

p. 79

5. Northland: primitive harsh cold
rugged wild
Southland: gentle warm civilized
6. current 水流 scars 疤; 伤疤
bones 骨; 骨头 fight 战斗
pours 不断流出
7. 1) scars 2) fight
3) current 4) bones
5) pours
8. e-a-b-f-h-d-g-c

第 13 章

p. 81

2. three hundred and sixty-five kilograms, two thousand five hundred dollars,
three hundred thousand dollars,
forty-eight kilograms, one million dollars

p. 84

3. c-b-d-a-g-e-f
4. 450 The number of kilos that Thornton says that Buck can pull.
1,000 The number of dollars that Matthewson bets on Buck's pulling 450 kilos.
- 60 The number of degrees that the weather is very cold, about 60 degrees below zero.
- 100 The number of meters that Buck pulls the sled loaded with twenty twenty-five kilo sacks of flour.
5. loud, boastful, nasty, defiant, rich

p. 85

6. 1) your 2) his 3) her
4) Their 5) our 6) Its

7. saloon, kilos, pull, thousand, Buck,
runners, harnessed,
whispers, move, mush, strength,
pulls, hundred meter, cheer

第 14 章

p. 88

1. autumn

p. 89

2. b) The lost Cabin
3. A wolf

p. 92

4. 1) F 2) F 3) F 4) T 5) F 6) F 7) F

- 1) Thornton is not afraid of the wilderness.
- 2) The dogs have nothing to do while the men pan for gold.
- 3) Thornton, Hal and Pete nothing but old, rotten blankets, some broken furniture and a gun.
- 5) Buck runs into the dark, silent forest alone.
- 6) Buck does not attack. They become good friends.
- 7) Buck returns to the camp. He doesn't run away with the wolf.

p. 93

5. Buck: watches partridges, spends hours by the fire, dreams, remembers John Thornton

Wolf: points its nose to the sky, howls, snaps and snarls, is suspicious and afraid

6. 1) a 2) an 3) a
4) an 5) a

7 d-g-e-b-c-a-f

第 15 章

p. 94

1. CHAPTER 1: b, e, h, n, o, p
CHAPTER 5: f, g, I, j, l,
CHAPTER 15: a, c, d, k, m, q, r

p. 98

2. 1) Buck licks Thornton's face.
- 2) He thinks and acts like a wolf.
- 3) The wolves are eating the meat of a moose.
- 4) One large animal is a large black bear. The other is a bull moose.
- 5) He finds Thornton near the river.
- 6) The Yeehat Indians.
- 7) In the evening, Buck finds his wild instincts waking.

4. a) a moose b) a wolf
c) a beaver d) rabbit
5. 1) through 2) outside
3) by 4) on
5) into

6. 1) outside 2) through 3) into
4) by 5) on

7. camp, licks, forest, kill animal, hunter, moose, arrows, dancing, master, dead, kills, afraid, devil, pack, wolves, Ghost, place

背景知识

p. 101

2. c-d-g-e-b-a-f

p. 102

3. a-5, b-6, c-2, d-3, e-1, f-8, g-4

p. 104

1. c, d

词汇表

p. 106

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. dry—wet | best—worst |
| cry—laugh | empty—full |
| poor—rich | wild—tame |
| mean—kind | danger—safety |
| healthy—sick | |

p. 107

2. crocodile moose elephant lion dog
horse salmon mouse rabbit
sheep wolf pig bear cow
Typical animals of Alaska: moose
dog salmon rabbit wolf bear

p. 108

3. 1) furious lonely pleased proud
crazy frightened
2) growl yelp bark howl whisper

cry snarl

- 3) back nose jaw toes eyes tail
tongue fang throat coat ears head
4) rope revolver whip sled harness
firewood axe sleeping bag tent

p. 110

4. Across

- | | | |
|--------------|------------|-----------|
| 1) Where | 3) moose | 7) owner |
| 8) hole | 9) team | 11) chunk |
| 12) alert | 13) danger | |
| Down | | |
| 2) woman | 2) rest | 4) obey |
| 5) exhausted | | 6) poke |
| 10) meat | | 11) cheer |

p. 112

5. 1) d 2) b 3) b 4) b 5) d

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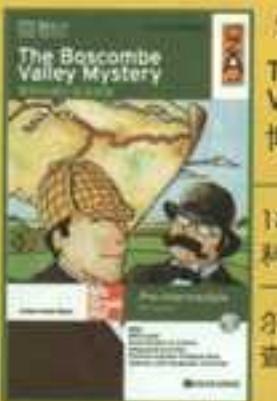
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