

The Call of the Wild

Jack London

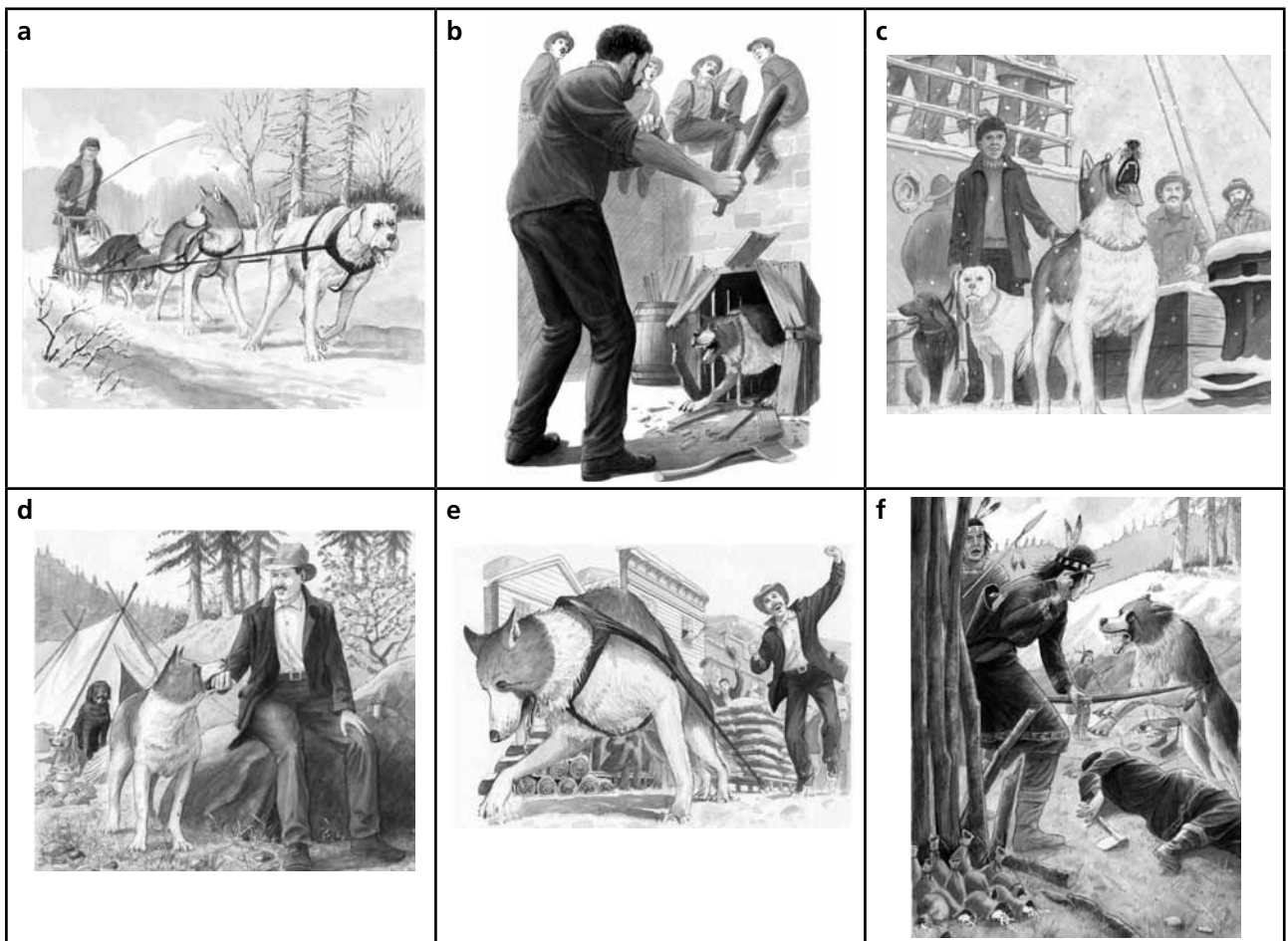
A Before Reading

- 1 a Jack London wrote the story in 1903. What do you know about Canada and the United States at that time?
- b The story is about a dog called Buck. Why do people keep dogs? What jobs can they do?
- c Which of the following adjectives describe dogs?

loyal independent aggressive clever proud stupid spoilt crazy

- 2 a Here are some pictures from the story. Match the following words to the things in the pictures.

bags of gold people cheering a club a tent a boat rope
a harness arrows a load a cage a whip a sled



- b Describe what is happening in each picture. Check your answers as you read.

B While Reading

- 3 a Buck's life changes a lot after he is taken away from Judge Miller's house. He learns lots of new things. As you read, make a note of the things he learns.

What does he learn about . . .	<i>He learns . . .</i>
men with clubs?	<i>he cannot not fight them.</i>
a dog falling to the ground?	
Spitz's smile?	
where to sleep in very cold weather?	
how he should eat in the camp?	
working?	
getting enough food in the camp?	
getting enough food in the wild?	
himself?	

- b Buck lives with different people and animals during the story. How does he feel about each one?

Judge Miller _____

Francois and Perrault _____

Spitz _____

Hal Mercedes and Charles _____

John Thornton _____

The wolf _____

- c How does Buck's way of life change during the story?

C After Reading

- 4 a What was 'the call of the wild' for Buck?
- b Why were Hal, Mercedes and Charles unsuccessful in their job?



- c Why did Buck survive?
- 5 Imagine what Buck's life was like when he went to live with the wolves. Write a paragraph to describe it. Think about:
- How was life different to life with Judge Miller?
- What is life like now? What does he do every day?

*His life is very different now. He used to live in a house with a family.
Now he lives in the woods with his own partner and family.*

- 6 One of the messages in the story is that people and animals have lost their natural place or role in life and society. Do you agree with this? Why/Why not? Give reasons for your answer.