

## Call of the Wild - Jack London

### Lesson 3

#### Final Extract

*And here may well end the story of Buck. The years were not many when the Yeehats noted a change in the breed of timber wolves; for some were seen with splashes of brown on head and muzzle, and with a rift of white centring down the chest. But more remarkable than this, the Yeehats tell of a Ghost Dog that runs at the head of the pack. They are afraid of this Ghost Dog, for it has cunning greater than they, stealing from their camps in fierce winters, robbing their traps, slaying their dogs, and defying their bravest hunters.*

*Nay, the tale grows worse. Hunters there are who fail to return to the camp, and hunters there have been whom their tribesmen found with throats slashed cruelly open and with wolf prints about them in the snow greater than the prints of any wolf. Each fall, when the Yeehats follow the movement of the moose, there is a certain valley which they never enter. And women there are who become sad when the word goes over the fire of how the Evil Spirit came to select that valley for an abiding-place.*

*In the summers there is one visitor, however, to that valley, of which the Yeehats do not know. It is a great, gloriously coated wolf, like, and yet unlike, all other wolves. He crosses alone from the smiling timber land and comes down into an open space among the trees. Here a yellow stream flows from rotted moose-hide sacks and sinks into the ground, with long grasses growing through it and vegetable mould overrunning it and hiding its yellow from the sun; and here he muses for a time, howling once, long and mournfully, ere he departs.*

*But he is not always alone. When the long winter nights come on and the wolves follow their meat into the lower valleys, he may be seen running at the head of the pack through the pale moonlight or glimmering borealis, leaping gigantic above his fellows, his great throat a-bellow as he sings a song of the younger world, which is the song of the pack.*

## Comprehension

Use the extract above to help you answer the following questions:

1. How had the wolves changed over the years?

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2. Why were the Yeehats afraid of the 'Ghost Dog'?

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3. How many visitors visit the valley every summer?

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4. Why do you think this visitor comes to the valley?

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5. Describe what the valley looks like.

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6. Why do you think wolves stay in packs?

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7. How would you feel if you saw a wolf in this valley?

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8. How do you feel at the end of the book?

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9. Do you think this is a happy ending?

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10. How has Buck changed over the course of the book?

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## **Vocabulary**

1. Stealthily
2. Strain
3. Obscure
4. Calamity
5. Caution
6. Ripple
7. Multitude
8. Hurl
9. Incarnate
10. Trace
11. Noble
12. Migrate
13. Succession
14. Sufficient
15. Agile
16. Whine
17. Savage
18. Mourn
19. Muse
20. Abide

## **HOMEWORK**

What was your **favourite part of the book** and **why**?

**OR**

Write a **short story** using **at least 5 new words** (above) that we learned from these chapters.