



# The Call of the Wild

## Jack London

Stage 3  
B1  
Teen Readers

### Activity

Complete the sentences with a word from the box.

both - but - front - near - open - suddenly - through

- 1 One night, Buck was sleeping in the camp when \_\_\_\_\_ he heard a howl from the forest.
- 2 This sound was \_\_\_\_\_ strange and familiar.
- 3 He got up and ran silently \_\_\_\_\_ the camp to the woods.
- 4 The howl was \_\_\_\_\_ and he stopped running.
- 5 He came to an \_\_\_\_\_ space in the trees.
- 6 There, in \_\_\_\_\_ of him, was wolf, with its nose pointing up to the sky.
- 7 Buck made no noise, \_\_\_\_\_ the animal could sense he was there and stopped howling.





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### PET – Writing

**Read these sentences about Buck’s adventures. Fill in the gaps in the second sentence with up to two words so that it means the same as the first.**

- The men gave Buck some fish to eat and made some leather shoes to protect his paws from the ice.  
Buck \_\_\_\_\_ fish to eat and some leather shoes to protect his paws.
- Buck ate the fish hungrily. When he turned round he saw that another dog had taken his sleeping place.  
While Buck \_\_\_\_\_ his fish, another dog took his sleeping place.
- The men shouted at Buck to chase the thief away and Buck immediately ran over to attack the dog.  
As soon as the men shouted at him to chase the thief away, Buck \_\_\_\_\_ over to attack the dog.
- Buck liked to sleep by Thornton’s side, so he found a way into his master’s tent.  
Buck found a way into Thorntons tent \_\_\_\_\_ he liked to sleep by his master’s side.
- Buck had never seen such a fast river.  
It was the \_\_\_\_\_ river Buck had ever seen.

1 was given; 2 was eating; 3 ran; 4 because 5 fastest

Answer:



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### Focus on...

## INTERESTING THEMES IN *THE CALL OF THE WILD*

The *Call of the Wild* by Jack London is a novel which is about the survival of the fittest, according to Darwin's concept of survival. London places Buck in conflict with and conquer humans, other dogs and environment. Buck, a domesticated dog, must learn to be wild to become wild as he is by heredity a wolf. The change of environment uncovers his innate characteristics and strengths to the point where he fights for survival and becomes leader of the pack. Buck's behaviour refers to human nature when it faces harsh circumstances when it returns to a state of primitivism. In the novel appear sub-themes like materialism, Nietzschean philosophy and the opposite of a *bildungsroman* – in which a character learns and grows – where Buck becomes progressively less civilized. Critics explain that Buck has managed to survive the arctic environment unlike humans, who are weak in those temperatures.

