

"Call of the Wild"- Chapter 1- Summaries

We are introduced to the main character; Buck. Buck is a dog who proves that you must adapt to certain situations in order to survive. He has qualities like humans. He can feel, express himself and show emotion. Buck was born in California and was given anything that he desired or wanted. Life has now changed for Buck and he is in the wild and experiences difficult times. For example he is choked by *Manuel* and has to fight back in order to save his life. He is put in a cage and treated like a "caged animal." He has his dignity taken away from him and learns the "law of the club." This means he learns that man is stronger and more powerful than animal.

In this chapter we are also introduced to some house- dogs, kennel dogs, and a rare dog a Spitzgergen. The house- dogs are; Toots a Japanese Pug and Ysabel a Mexican hairless dog. They are high maintenance dogs and require a lot of special attention. The kennel dogs are dogs that have been through tough situations of animal cruelty and abuse and some even witnessed death. Buck has

a difficult time relating to these dogs because he has such a different personality and lives a completely different lifestyle. The Spitzbergen is apart of the dogsled team and he and Buck really don't have a close relationship, their personalities are very different. Through the next couple of chapters we will really learn more of who Buck is from the inside and out.

Chapter 2

The theme of this chapter is "survival of the fittest." Buck learns that the dogs that he encounters are savages and mean dogs. Buck's friend; Curly is killed by a pack of dogs and Buck has a hard time facing Curly's death. We are introduced to 2 more dogs; Billee and Joe. They are brothers and will join Bucks sled team. There is another important dog and he is; Sol-leks. In this chapter Buck experiences the cold weather and has to adapt in order to survive. He learns that he must eat fast when he finds food because

the other dogs will eat his food and he must fend for himself. Buck discovers that he must listen to his intuitions and instincts.

Chapter 3

In this chapter we learn about Buck and Spitz's relationship. They are 2 very different dogs from very different backgrounds and they don't get along at all. Spitz steals Bucks food, Spitz is the leader of the dogsled, and Spitz watched Curly being killed. Buck has a hard time knowing that Buck is the leader of the sled and Buck and Spitz always seem to fight against one another. There is a serious fight between the 2 dogs and Francois; a master has to get involved and intervene.

Another important event in this chapter is the fight between Buck and the starving huskies. It is a terrible scene and the dogs are badly injured. Buck and his dogsled also experience hardships such as; ice breaking on their journey, the team falling in, and Buck's feet freezing.

Another incident that occurs in this chapter is a dog; Dolly going mad and having to be killed in order to keep Buck alive. Francois is the type of person who always comes to Buck's aid and assist him in many life-threatening situations.

The concluding part of this chapter is Spitz attacks Buck again and Spitz gets him at his lowest point and Francois has to be there again to help Buck out. Buck has a hard time facing the fact that he needs help from others and feels inferior to Spitz. When a rabbit become a form of competition for the 2 dogs, Buck fights Spitz once again and breaks Spitz's legs and proves that he is the "king of the wild." This is a main factor why these 2 dogs always have conflicts between one another and Buck proves that he is answering the "call of the wild" to show that he is in most control of it.

The Call of the Wild

Chapter 4

Summary

The next morning, Perrault discovers Spitz missing and Buck covered with wounds. The dog-driver harnesses the dogs. Buck trots over to the space Spitz used to occupy, but Francois does not notice him and harnesses Sol-leks to the lead position. Buck lunges at Sol-leks, but Francois drags him away by the scruff of the neck. Sol-leks shows that he is afraid of Buck and does not mind giving up the position, but Francois comes back with the club. Buck retreats but then refuses to take his old position. Buck thinks that he has earned the lead position and will be satisfied with nothing less.

Perrault tells Francois to throw down his club, and Buck trots back to the lead position. Buck takes up the job easily and shows himself to be superior even to Spitz. He is a born leader and excels at making the others live up to his expectations. Two native huskies are added to the team, and Buck breaks them in quickly. The team is ahead of their record now, and they cover the Thirty Mile River in one day, even though it took them ten days to cross before. They average 40 miles a day, and they reach Skaguay in record time. Perrault and Francois receive their official orders, and exit from Buck's life.

The team travels back to Dawson under the command of a Scotsman. They are carrying a heavy load of mail to the gold-miners in the North. Life is monotonous and laborious for Buck. He thinks about his life in California, but he is not homesick. His inherited instincts are stronger in him, and everything he encounters in this wilder place seems strangely familiar. The men he is with remind him of men from another, more primitive time.

The dogs are tired when they reach Dawson. They are treated well, attended to even before the men, but Dave is suffering from a strange illness that no one can diagnose. The men decide he is too weak to pull the sled and try to pull him out of his position, but he protests until they put him back into his rightful place. They realize that he wants to die working and harness him into his usual position. The