

# The Call of the Wild Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

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- 1. What does John Thornton take with him on his quest to the Lost Cabin?**
  - A. Food and water**
  - B. Bow and arrows**
  - C. Salt and rifle**
  - D. Map and compass**
- 2. A group of wild huskies attacking the camp is depicted as a true event in the story.**
  - A. True**
  - B. False**
- 3. What does the call of the wild represent for Buck?**
  - A. A memory of his prior life**
  - B. His desire for adventure**
  - C. A return to his instincts and heritage**
  - D. A misconception of freedom**
- 4. How are the relationships among the dogs in the story significant?**
  - A. They highlight the importance of competition only**
  - B. They illustrate loyalty, challenges, and roles within a hierarchy**
  - C. They show that dogs cannot bond**
  - D. They are mostly inconsequential**
- 5. How does Buck's learning process develop in the story?**
  - A. His instincts are very sharp**
  - B. He learns quickly from others**
  - C. His instincts progress slowly**
  - D. He only learns through mistakes**
- 6. What does the wilderness symbolize in Buck's journey?**
  - A. Freedom and the return to his primal instincts**
  - B. Conflict between man and nature**
  - C. A journey towards civilization**
  - D. Home and safety**

- 7. True or False: Buck's wolf brother exists in his dreams about the caveman.**
- A. True**
  - B. False**
  - C. Only in reality**
  - D. Only in past memories**
- 8. In the context of a narrative, what is typically established during the exposition?**
- A. Conflict and climax**
  - B. Main characters and setting**
  - C. Resolution of the story**
  - D. Foreshadowing of events**
- 9. Which animal does Buck develop a close relationship with during his time in the wild?**
- A. A bear**
  - B. A wolf**
  - C. A deer**
  - D. A rabbit**
- 10. What literary device predominantly illustrates Buck's evolution?**
- A. Foreshadowing**
  - B. Personification**
  - C. Symbolism**
  - D. Irony**

## **Answers**

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1. C
2. B
3. C
4. B
5. C
6. A
7. B
8. B
9. B
10. C

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What does John Thornton take with him on his quest to the Lost Cabin?**

- A. Food and water**
- B. Bow and arrows**
- C. Salt and rifle**
- D. Map and compass**

John Thornton takes salt and a rifle with him on his quest to the Lost Cabin, as these items are crucial for his survival and for the tasks he plans to undertake. The salt is necessary for preserving food, which is vital when embarking on such a long journey in the wilderness. Additionally, the rifle serves both as a means of protection against wild animals and as a tool for hunting, allowing him to secure fresh food during the expedition. This choice reflects Thornton's experience and understanding of the dangers and needs of wilderness exploration, emphasizing his survival skills in the harsh environment of the Yukon.

**2. A group of wild huskies attacking the camp is depicted as a true event in the story.**

- A. True**
- B. False**

In "The Call of the Wild," the aggressive behavior of wild huskies does not represent a true event in the context of the novel's narrative. The story depicts Buck's experiences and his transformation in a wilderness setting where he encounters various challenges and dangers, including other dogs. However, the specific scenario of a group of wild huskies attacking a camp is an exaggeration that serves to illustrate the chaos and brutality of survival in the wild rather than a factual event. Jack London uses such scenes to build tension and illustrate the primal instincts that emerge in characters both animal and human, but they are not based on a realistic event occurring in the plot. Thus, indicating that this scene is not a true depiction within the narrative framework of the story aligns with the understanding of the author's intent to dramatize experiences rather than present historical or realistic occurrences.

**3. What does the call of the wild represent for Buck?**

- A. A memory of his prior life**
- B. His desire for adventure**
- C. A return to his instincts and heritage**
- D. A misconception of freedom**

The call of the wild represents a deep and transformative journey for Buck, encapsulating his return to his instincts and heritage. Throughout the story, Buck evolves from a domesticated pet into a creature driven by primal instincts, reconnecting with his ancestral lineage as a wolf. This return to the wild signifies not only a physical transition but also an awakening of his inherent abilities and instincts that had been suppressed during his life in civilization. As Buck experiences the rawness and challenges of the wilderness, he embraces his true nature, asserting his strength and leadership in a way that reflects the unrefined beauty of the natural world. This connection to his heritage allows him to thrive in the wild, further illustrating the theme of survival and the importance of instinct over learned behaviors from his previous life. Thus, the call of the wild embodies Buck's journey towards self-discovery and realization of his identity beyond civilization's constraints.

**4. How are the relationships among the dogs in the story significant?**

- A. They highlight the importance of competition only
- B. They illustrate loyalty, challenges, and roles within a hierarchy**
- C. They show that dogs cannot bond
- D. They are mostly inconsequential

The relationships among the dogs in "The Call of the Wild" are significant because they illustrate the themes of loyalty, challenges, and the roles each dog plays within a social hierarchy. Throughout the story, the interaction between the dogs serves to reflect the broader themes of survival and adaptation in a harsh environment. For instance, Buck's evolving relationship with other dogs, such as Spitz, demonstrates the competition for leadership and the need to assert oneself in order to thrive. As Buck faces challenges, particularly in his conflict with Spitz, these relationships reveal the necessity of loyalty to allies and the importance of understanding one's place within the pack dynamic. This hierarchy is not merely about dominance but also involves mutual respect and the instinctual behaviors that drive these animals in a wild setting. The relationships are multifaceted; they capture both the competitive nature of survival and the bonds that can form when dogs work together, illuminating the complexities of their social structures. Such complexities mark the dogs not only as individual characters but as representations of the instincts and relationships inherent in the natural world.

**5. How does Buck's learning process develop in the story?**

- A. His instincts are very sharp
- B. He learns quickly from others
- C. His instincts progress slowly**
- D. He only learns through mistakes

Buck's journey in "The Call of the Wild" showcases a dynamic learning curve as he transitions from domesticated pet to a creature attuned to the wild. While it is true that he begins with a strong instinctual foundation, the development of his instincts is not gradual; rather, it is a series of immediate and intense adaptations triggered by his experiences and challenges in the harsh wilderness. The correct understanding lies in recognizing that Buck's instincts sharpen and evolve rapidly in response to his environment. He faces numerous trials that force him to adapt, learn, and embrace his primordial instincts. Each encounter serves as a lesson, accelerating his transformation rather than presenting a slow progression. This rapid adaptation is a critical theme of the novel, emphasizing the instinctual nature of survival that drives Buck to connect with his ancestral roots. By observing the interactions of other animals and the harsh realities of life in the wild, Buck quickly grasps the necessity of these instincts for survival, leading to a swift and profound evolution in his character. Thus, the development of his learning process is characterized by immediate, reactive adaptations rather than a slow, methodical progression.

**6. What does the wilderness symbolize in Buck's journey?**

**A. Freedom and the return to his primal instincts**

**B. Conflict between man and nature**

**C. A journey towards civilization**

**D. Home and safety**

The wilderness serves as a powerful symbol in Buck's journey, representing freedom and the reawakening of his primal instincts. Throughout the story, Buck transitions from a domesticated pet to a creature that embraces his ancestral heritage. As he navigates the wild environment, he sheds the constraints of civilization and begins to connect with his inner being, responding to natural instincts that had been dormant during his life in a human home. This transformation illustrates not only Buck's physical survival but also his emotional and psychological liberation. The wilderness becomes a place where he can truly thrive and realize his full potential as a wolf, untethered from the roles imposed on him by humans. Ultimately, Buck's journey reflects the idea that nature can offer a profound sense of freedom and authenticity, allowing him to reclaim his identity in a way that civilized life never could.

**7. True or False: Buck's wolf brother exists in his dreams about the caveman.**

**A. True**

**B. False**

**C. Only in reality**

**D. Only in past memories**

In "The Call of the Wild," Buck's wolf brother does not exist in his dreams about the caveman. Instead, his dreams often reflect memories and instincts tied to his ancestral past, including experiences of survival and the call of the wild. The concept of a wolf brother is more symbolic and ties into Buck's deepening connection to his primal instincts as he becomes more attuned to the wilderness. This understanding of his heritage and instinctual drive is not depicted as a literal entity that appears in his dreams, but rather as an underlying theme that influences his evolution throughout the story. Thus, the notion that Buck's wolf brother exists in his dreams does not hold true within the context of the narrative.

**8. In the context of a narrative, what is typically established during the exposition?**

- A. Conflict and climax**
- B. Main characters and setting**
- C. Resolution of the story**
- D. Foreshadowing of events**

The exposition of a narrative serves a crucial role in introducing the main characters and setting, which lays the foundation for the story to unfold. By presenting the background information, the exposition helps readers understand who the characters are, what their motivations may be, and where the action takes place. This context is vital for establishing the emotional tone of the narrative and for preparing the audience for the conflict and events that will follow. In contrast, elements such as conflict and climax relate to the development and resolution of the story rather than the initial setup. Resolution pertains to how the story concludes, while foreshadowing involves hints about future events, which are elements that arise later in the narrative. Therefore, establishing main characters and setting during the exposition is essential for guiding readers into the unfolding story.

**9. Which animal does Buck develop a close relationship with during his time in the wild?**

- A. A bear**
- B. A wolf**
- C. A deer**
- D. A rabbit**

Buck develops a close relationship with a wolf during his time in the wild, which is significant for several reasons. As Buck returns to his primal instincts and learns to survive in the wilderness, the bond he forms with the wolf symbolizes his connection to nature and his ancestral roots. This relationship helps him understand the wild and embrace his identity as a creature of the forest. The wolf also represents the freedom and independence that Buck yearns for, contrasting with the constraints he faces in human society. Through his interactions with the wolf, Buck finds companionship and a sense of belonging that is essential for his survival in the harsh environment. This relationship ultimately plays a crucial role in Buck's transformation from a domesticated dog to a wild animal, illustrating the themes of survival, instinct, and the bond between species in the natural world.

**10. What literary device predominantly illustrates Buck's evolution?**

- A. Foreshadowing**
- B. Personification**
- C. Symbolism**
- D. Irony**

Symbolism plays a crucial role in illustrating Buck's evolution throughout "The Call of the Wild." As a domesticated dog that transforms into a wild and independent creature, various elements in the narrative symbolize different aspects of his development. For instance, Buck's gradually increasing connection to his primal instincts is symbolized through his experiences in the wilderness, the challenges he faces, and the relationships he develops with both humans and other animals. Certain key elements, such as the law of club and fang, represent the harsh realities of survival in the wild, serving as a symbolic backdrop against which Buck's transformation occurs. Buck himself becomes a symbol of resilience and adaptability as he sheds the trappings of his domesticated life in favor of embracing his ancestral heritage. This metamorphosis is punctuated by symbols such as his interactions with John Thornton, which represent loyalty and the bond that both reinforces and tempers his wild instincts. Overall, the use of symbolism in Buck's journey is integral to understanding the depth of his character development, showcasing how external influences and innate instincts collide to shape his identity across the narrative.