



American Expression E2058 Call of the wild

IOTS Publishing Team
International Online Teachers Society
Since 2011

"Call of the Wild" is a classic novel written by American author Jack London, published in 1903. This timeless work of literature has captured the hearts of readers for over a century and remains a powerful exploration of the human-animal bond, the primordial instincts within us, and the allure of the wilderness.

Set during the Klondike Gold Rush of the late 19th century, the story follows the adventures of a domesticated dog named Buck. Buck lives a comfortable life in California until he is stolen and sold into the harsh and unforgiving world of the Yukon Territory. There, he is forced to adapt to the brutal realities of the wild as a sled dog, facing the extreme cold, demanding work, and the ruthless authority of man.

As the narrative unfolds, "Call of the Wild" delves into Buck's transformation from a pampered pet to a formidable and cunning wild animal. Under the severe conditions of the North, Buck taps into his ancestral instincts, reverting to his primal self. His journey becomes a testament to the innate ability of animals to adapt and thrive in their natural environments, as well as a commentary on the primal instincts that reside within all living creatures.

Central to the novel is the concept of the "call of the wild" itself. This notion represents a powerful and mysterious force that beckons to Buck from the depths of his being, drawing him away from the safety and comfort of human civilization and into the wilderness. It symbolizes the allure of the untamed, the yearning for freedom, and the pull of one's true nature. Buck's response to this call is a poignant exploration of the primal instincts that exist within us all and the idea that the wild, unspoiled world is a fundamental part of our collective consciousness.

Through Buck's experiences and interactions with other dogs and humans, the novel also explores themes of survival, cruelty, and the hierarchy of power. It sheds light on the often brutal treatment of animals and the natural world during the Gold Rush era, serving as a critique of human exploitation and dominance over nature.

"Call of the Wild" has left an indelible mark on literature, inspiring countless readers and writers alike. Its enduring popularity is a testament to its ability to resonate with audiences across generations. It has been adapted into various films, stage productions, and other media, further cementing its place in the cultural landscape.

In conclusion, "Call of the Wild" by Jack London is a compelling and thought-provoking novel that explores the themes of survival, primal instincts, and the allure of the wilderness. Through the journey of Buck, the novel provides a vivid depiction of the rugged landscapes of the Yukon and a deep exploration of the human-animal bond. It continues to be celebrated for its enduring relevance and timeless storytelling.

Questions for Discussion

1. What is the significance of the "call of the wild" in the novel, and how does it drive the transformation and actions of the protagonist, Buck?
2. In what ways does Jack London's portrayal of the harsh and unforgiving wilderness of the Yukon contribute to the overall themes and atmosphere of the story?
3. The novel depicts the relationships between humans and animals. How does "Call of the Wild" explore the ethical and moral aspects of how humans treat and interact with animals during the Gold Rush era?
4. Buck's journey from a domesticated pet to a wild, independent creature is central to the narrative. What does this transformation symbolize, and how does it reflect broader themes of self-discovery and the search for one's true identity?
5. "Call of the Wild" has resonated with readers for generations. Why do you think this novel continues to captivate audiences, and what elements of the story make it a timeless classic in literature?