

CHAPTER 1

Buck didn't read the newspapers. He didn't know that there was trouble. Not just for him, but for all big, strong, hairy dogs. Men had found gold in the north.

Buck lived in a big house with vines, a garden and a stable of horses. It had a long drive that led up to the house. It was called the Judge's house.

He went hunting with Judge's sons. He took the Judge's daughters out for walks in the morning and at night. When it was winter, he lay by the warm fire at the Judge's feet. He was the king of this place.

Buck was a big dog, although not as big as his father Elmo. The other dogs respected him and he lived a happy life in comfort.



When it was winter, he lay by the warm fire at the Judge's feet.

He was a very proud dog and a little big-headed, but hunting outside kept him from being a spoiled house-dog. He was strong from walking and hunting. He wasn't fat like other dogs. He liked swimming too.

It was autumn in 1897 when trouble came for Buck. Manuel was a helper in the garden. He was a gambler in a lot of debt. The family were all away when Manuel took Buck for a walk to the train station. A rough looking man gave him coins.

Manuel folded a rope in half and wrapped it around Buck's neck. Buck did not fight as Manuel was putting the rope around his neck because he trusted the men he knew.

Buck growled when the stranger took the ends of the rope. The rope **tightened** around his neck. Buck couldn't breathe easily. This made Buck very angry. He attacked the man. The stranger grabbed him by the neck and threw him to the floor.

tight (adj) strongly fixed or held

tighten (v) to make or become tight



*The rope tightened around his neck. Buck couldn't breathe easily.
This made Buck very angry.*



These new men laughed at him and poked at him with sticks.

The rope got tighter. Buck **struggled** but he didn't win.

No one had treated Buck in such a nasty way before. He had never been so angry in his life. Buck's eyes closed as he was too tired to fight any more. When he opened his eyes, he was on a train. He was still angry.

The man he hated was with him. Buck attacked him. He bit the stranger's hand and didn't let go. The stranger had to knock Buck out to free his hand. When the train stopped, Buck and the stranger got off.

They went to the back of a saloon. The barman waited for them there. Buck wasn't well. His head hurt and he felt weak. He tried to fight the two men but he lost. The men took off the rope and Buck's fine collar. They threw him into a wooden cage.

In the morning, four men came and picked up the crate. These men were evil-looking and Buck snapped and growled in a terrifying way as they carried him. These new men laughed at him and poked at him with sticks. The men took Buck to a train. Buck didn't eat or drink on the train.

struggle (v) to try to move by making a lot of effort

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Test-1

Are the following sentences True (T) or False (F)?

1. Buck lived in comfort at the judge's house. T / F
2. Buck was angry when the rope tightened around his neck. T / F
3. Skeet was blind in one eye. T / F
4. François made some shoes for Buck. T / F
5. Buck was a very slow learner. T / F
6. Buck attacked Spitz for stealing his bed. T / F
7. Eighty starving huskies stole food from the camp. T / F
8. Perrault shot Dave because he was too sick to continue. T / F
9. Hal and Charles didn't know how to look after sled-dogs. T / F
10. Hal was kind to the dogs. T / F
11. Buck failed to pull 1000 lbs. T / F
12. Mercedes, Charles and Hal drowned in the river. T / F

Test-2

Who said this in the story?

John Thornton, François, Hal or Matthewson

1. “No more Spitz, no more trouble.”

.....

2. “That is the fastest training I’ve ever seen.”

.....

3. “But we did it. We proved them wrong.”

.....

4. “Get up there! Hi! Get up there!”

.....

5. “If you strike that dog again, I’ll kill you.”

.....

6. “You poor devil.”

.....

7. “You must stand away from him.”

.....

GRAMMAR CHECK

Test-1

Put these words in the correct order so that the sentences make sense.

1. was / his / he / bleeding / from / nose
.....
2. he / attacked / the / fury / cage / in / a
.....
3. Buck's / was / body / shock / shaking / with
.....
4. driver / some / have / the / wanted / to / rest
.....
5. wolf / nature / the / wild / of / the / strong / was / in / Buck
.....
6. shore / camp / on / the / lake / was / the / of / the
.....
7. fire / they / had / their / to / build / on / the / lake
.....
8. were / for / the / looking / starving / dogs / food
.....
9. found / they / a / followed / rabbit / and / it
.....
10. whipped / they / badly / him / and / treated / him
.....

Test-2

Choose the best answer.

One night, Buck suddenly awoke. He heard the noise of a huskie dog. Buck ran through the woods. As he ¹ closer to the cry, he moved slower. He came to an open space ² saw a long, lean, timber wolf.

Buck followed the wolf and cornered it in a river bed. Buck didn't attack ³ circled him. The wolf was scared because Buck was ⁴ bigger than him.

The wolf waited and then ran again. They did this until the wolf knew that Buck ⁵ want to hurt him.

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|----|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 1. | a. draw | b. drew | c. draws |
| 2. | a. and | b. so | c. but |
| 3. | a. but | b. as | c. if |
| 4. | a. many | b. more | c. much |
| 5. | a. didn't | b. doesn't | c. hasn't |