

BOOK RESUME: THE CALL OF THE WILD



Title: The Call of the Wild

Author: Jack London

Imprint: Puffin Books

Publisher: Penguin Young Readers

On sale date: September 8, 2011

ISBN: 9780141336541

Format: Hardcover

***Age Range:** 10+

(Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: Gr 7 Up

(Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Life is good for Buck in Santa Clara Valley, where he spends his days eating and sleeping in the golden sunshine. But one day a treacherous act of betrayal leads to his kidnap, and he is forced into a life of toil and danger. Dragged away to be a sledge dog in the harsh and freezing cold Yukon, Buck must fight for his survival. Can he rise above his enemies and become the master of his realm once again?

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

- ***School Library Journal*** (The following is a combined review for *The Call of the Wild* and *Dracula*): “Both of these volumes are strong adaptations of the originals, with black-and-white illustrations, appendixes featuring sketches, adapter and illustrator notes, and biographical information about the original authors. These extra elements are outstanding as they enlighten readers about the books’ creative process and offer background material that’s sure to pique interest in the original texts. Kleid’s adaptation is strong and compelling but is at odds with Nino’s line drawings. The thin outlines and use of white space seem to contrast with the strength of the plot. In *Dracula*, the text and illustrations commingle flawlessly into a wonderful gothic tale with manga-inspired illustrations and a frightful Nosferatu-esque *Dracula*. While Reed’s version is slightly stronger, both books would be worthy additions to any collection”. —Jennifer Feigelman, Plattekill Public Library, Modena, NY (Reviewed March 1, 2006) (*School Library Journal*, vol. 52, issue 3, p. 251)
- **[Salem Press Biographical Encyclopedia](#)** (2021): “It has never been out of print, and it has been translated into sixty-eight languages. The book not only made London’s career as a best-selling author possible but also secured his place in American literary naturalism.”

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- **[PBS Great American Read](#)** (2018)
- ***The Guardian* [The 100 Best Novels](#)** (2014)

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*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book’s intended use.

- Library of Congress [Books that Shaped America, 1900-1950 National Book Festival Exhibit](#) (2012)
- [Radcliffe Publishing Course Top 100 Novels of the 20th Century](#) (1998)

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- The Huntington Library, [Educator Learning Resource](#)
- National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), [Audio Guide](#)
- NEA Big Read, [Reader Resources](#)
- *Smithsonian Magazine*, "[The Short, Frantic, Rags-to-Riches Life of Jack London](#)" (2016)
- Sonoma State University Jack London Online, [Teaching Jack London](#)
- University of Montana Mansfield Library, [Banned Books Week 2013 - The Call of the Wild](#) Video Discussion
- Markkula Center for Applied Ethics, [Ethics and The Call of the Wild](#) (2011)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

- [The Banning Of Jack Londons The Call Of The Wild](#): "In my opinion, this book shouldn't have been in the category of banned and challenged books. Although it does contain some intense scenes, it also helps readers understand a way of life. It gives an idea of how life was back then."
- **President Franklin Delano Roosevelt**: "Books may be burned and cities sacked, but truth like the yearning for freedom, lives in the hearts of humble men and women. The ultimate victory of tomorrow is with democracy; and true democracy with education, for no people in all the world can be kept eternally ignorant or eternally enslaved." (USC Libraries, *BANNED AND BURNT BOOKS: A Personal Essay*)

AUTHOR STATEMENT

- [Stanford University Press Blog](#)

***A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

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