

Introductory Lesson

Before Reading

- ① In the Yukon, where *White Fang* was born, there are many kinds of wild animals. Can you name other wild animals besides wolves who live in a cold climate?
- ② Do you think wild animals get along with each other? Do you think they get along with humans? Discuss.
- ③ What do you think life is like in very cold places? What is different about life in a cold place than in a warm place? Where would you rather live?
- ④ The Indians of North America lived in camps and slept in tents. Do you think it would be fun to live that way? Why / why not?
- ⑤ How do you think Indian children grew up? What do you think they did every day? What games do you think they played?

Jack London



Jack London was born in San Francisco, California, in 1876. He became the most popular American author of his time. London did many exciting things in his life, and

these things gave him the ideas for his writing. In 1897 he went to the far northern part of North America to look for gold. Later he went to the Yukon, where he was famous for his story telling. The time he spent there was very important. It taught him how hard it is for people and animals to live in a cold and dangerous place. Later in his life, this lesson helped him create the characters and stories for his most popular books, like "The Call of the Wild", and "White Fang."

In the early 1900s London and his wife, Charmian, moved to a ranch in California. They raised animals, such as bulls and horses, and grew many crops there.

London was forty years old when he died in 1916. His ranch is now a park.

⑥ Read about Jack London and circle the correct answers.

- a. Jack London went to the Yukon to ...
- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 work on a farm. | 3 go mountain climbing. |
| 2 look for gold. | 4 hunt for wild animals. |
- b. London learned how hard it is to live in a wild part of the world.
- | | |
|--------|---------|
| 1 True | 2 False |
|--------|---------|
- c. When he was in the Yukon, London was famous for his ...
- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| 1 painting. | 3 kindness. |
| 2 story telling. | 4 writing. |
- d. Living in the Yukon helped London create characters and stories for his books.
- | | |
|--------|---------|
| 1 True | 2 False |
|--------|---------|



Gray
Beaver

Mit-sah

Kiche

White Fang



Weedon Scott

Alice Scott

Beauty Smith

Collie

The She-Wolf

There are parts of North America that are very, very cold in winter. This is why not many people live there. The land is white with snow and there is ice on the rivers. It is so cold that it is difficult for anything to stay alive.

Two men, Bill and Henry, were on their way to Fort McGurry to bury Lord Alfred. Six dogs pulled a sled that carried his body.

It was almost night-time when they heard the first howl. Bill and Henry stopped the sled and looked behind them. All they could see was white snow.

Then there was another howl.

"It's wolves, Henry, and they're close."

"They're hungry. There's not much food out here for them. We'd better stop and light a fire to keep them away. It's getting dark anyway."

The two men found a place in the forest where they could sleep for the night. Bill took out six fish from a box to feed the dogs, but when he came back, he looked confused.

"Henry, how many dogs have we got?"

"Six."

"But I saw seven just now when I went to feed them!"

"You must be tired. There are only six."

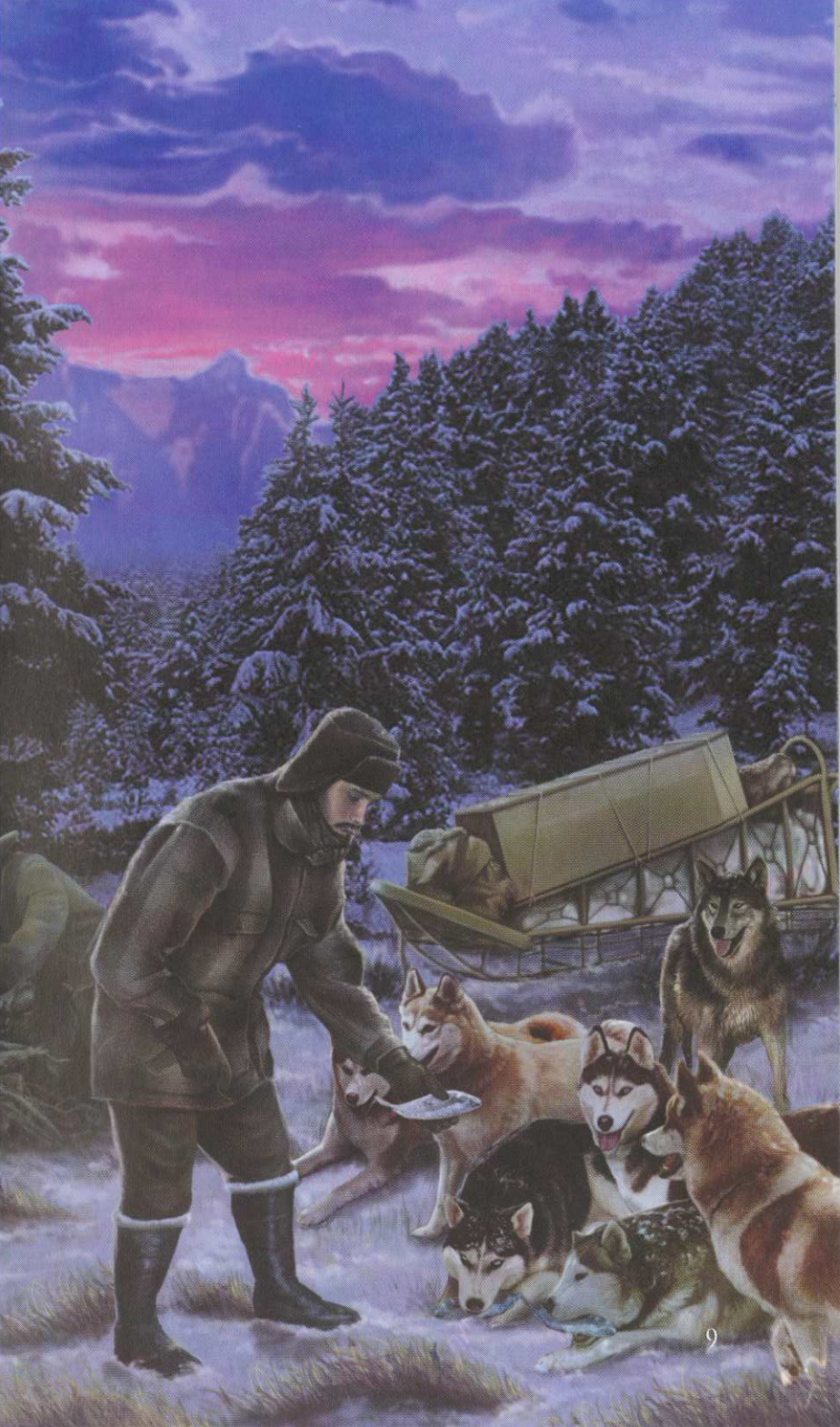
In the morning, when the men were ready to move again, they noticed that one of the dogs was missing.

"Fatty's not here. He ran away."

"But where could he go out here?"

"Maybe the wolves killed him, Henry. They need food."

"And if we're not careful, they'll eat us, too."



The men continued with five dogs. They went as fast as they could, but Fort McGurry was still some days away. The next night, when they stopped to camp, they heard the wolves again.

"They're staying close, Bill."

"And we've only got one gun and three bullets. For the first time in my life I wish I had more bullets."

The men were tired and slept deeply. In the morning, another dog, Frog, was missing. The men were very surprised because Frog was a clever dog, not like Fatty.

"Why did Frog leave the camp, when he knew that the wolves were out there?"

Then they saw the reason. There, in the distance, in the white snow, stood a she-wolf. But she didn't look exactly like a wolf. She was bigger and looked a bit like a sled-dog. Her fur was gray, but it looked red when she moved.

"There's your answer, Bill. That she-wolf comes to the camp at night and the male dogs follow her into the forest. Then the wolves kill our dogs."

"Well, I'm going to shoot her the first chance I get. We can't lose any more dogs."

They tied the dogs up at night but they still escaped. When there were only three dogs, the wolves did not hide any more. They followed the men out into the open – the she-wolf leading them. The men were afraid, but neither of them said anything. Then, One Ear, a sled-dog, escaped in the day. He followed the she-wolf into the trees. Bill took the gun and ran after them.

"That's it! I'm going to stop that she-wolf now!"

One Ear ran after the she-wolf into the forest where the other wolves were waiting. Bill followed them. Henry heard One Ear cry out in pain, and then he heard a gunshot. Then another gunshot.

And a third one. He knew Bill had no more bullets. The wolves howled. Henry knew that he was now alone. There was nothing he could do to save his friend. He had no gun – and no bullets.

