

Short Read 1 • Adventure

Read the passage. Then answer questions 1–10.

from *The Call of the Wild*

by Jack London

- 1 A dog named Buck lived the first four years of his life happily on an estate in California owned by Judge Miller. But then gold was discovered in the Klondike area of Canada, and there was a large demand for strong dogs to pull sleds through the ice and snow to the gold fields. Manuel, a man who worked for Judge Miller, decided he could make some money by kidnapping and selling Buck.
- 2 The Judge was at a meeting of the Raisin Growers' Association, and the boys were busy organizing an athletic club, on the memorable night of Manuel's treachery. No one saw him and Buck go off through the orchard on what Buck imagined was merely a stroll. And with the exception of a solitary man, no one saw them arrive at the little flag station known as College Park. This man talked with Manuel, and money chinked between them.
- 3 "You might wrap up the goods before you deliver 'm," the stranger said gruffly, and Manuel doubled a piece of stout rope around Buck's neck under the collar.
- 4 "Twist it, an' you'll choke 'm plentee," said Manuel, and the stranger grunted a ready affirmative.
- 5 Buck had accepted the rope with quiet dignity. To be sure, it was an unwonted performance: but he had learned to trust in men he knew, and to give them credit for a wisdom that outreached his own. But when the ends of the rope were placed in the stranger's hands, he growled menacingly. He had merely intimated his displeasure, in his pride believing that to intimate was to command. But to his surprise the rope tightened around his neck, shutting off his breath. In quick rage he sprang at the man, who met him halfway, grappled him close by the throat, and with a deft twist threw him over on his back. Then the rope tightened mercilessly, while Buck struggled in a fury, his tongue lolling out of his mouth and his great chest panting futilely. Never in all his life had he been so vilely treated, and never in all his life had he been so angry. But his strength ebbed, his eyes glazed, and he knew nothing when the train was flagged and the two men threw him into the baggage car.

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