

White Fang



By

Jack London

A Novel Study
by Nat Reed

White Fang

By Jack London

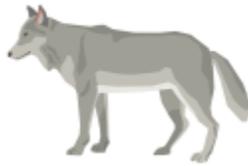


Table of Contents

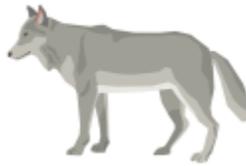
Suggestions and Expectations	3
List of Skills	4
Synopsis / Author Biography	5
Student Checklist	6
Reproducible Student Booklet	7
Answer Key	68

About the author: Nat Reed was a member of the teaching profession for more than 35 years. He was a full-time instructor at Trent University in the Teacher Education Program for nine years. For more information on his work and literature, visit novelstudies.org.

Copyright © 2020 Nat Reed
Revisions Completed in 2025
All rights reserved by author.
Permission to copy for single classroom use only.
Electronic distribution limited to single classroom use only.
Not for public display.

White Fang

By Jack London



Note to Teachers

This integrated novel study guide is designed to assist the classroom teacher in the reading of **White Fang**. Each chapter of the novel study focuses on one and three chapters and is comprised of four distinct sections:

1. Before You Read
2. Vocabulary Building
3. Comprehension Questions
4. Language and Extension Activities

A **portfolio cover** (p.7) as well as a **Checklist** (p.6) are included so that students may track of their completed work.

Every activity need not be completed by all students.

Links with the Common Core Standards (U.S.)

Many of the activities included in this curriculum unit are supported by the Common Core Standards. For instance the *Reading Standards for Literature, Grade 5*, makes reference to:

- a) determining the meaning of words and phrases. . . including figurative language;
- b) explaining how a series of chapters fits together to provide the overall structure;
- c) compare and contrast two characters;
- d) determine how characters ... respond to challenges;
- e) drawing inferences from the text;
- f) determining a theme of a story . . . and many others.

Themes which may be taught in conjunction with the novel include the Arctic, the gray wolf, sled dogs, courage and bravery, loyalty and sacrifice, survival in harsh conditions and the power to adapt.

White Fang

By Jack London

List of Skills

Vocabulary Development

1. Locate descriptive words/phrases
2. List synonyms/homophones
3. Identify/create *alliteration*
4. Use of capitals and punctuation
5. Identify syllables
6. Identify *personification*
7. Identify *anagrams*
8. List compound words
9. Identify parts of speech
10. Determine alphabetical order
11. Identify root words
12. Identify/create *similes*

Setting Activities

1. Summarize the details of a setting

Plot Activities

1. Complete a *time line* of events
2. Identify conflict in the story
3. Complete Five W's Chart
4. Identify *cliffhangers*
5. Identify the climax of the novel
6. Complete a Story Pyramid

Character Activities

1. Determine character traits
2. Identify the protagonist/antagonist
3. Relating personal experiences
4. Compare characters

Creative and Critical Thinking

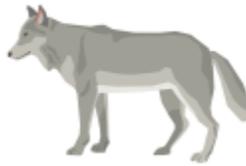
1. Research
2. Write a newspaper story
3. Participate in a talk show
4. Conduct an interview
5. Create a poem
6. Write about personal feelings
7. Write a book review
8. Complete an Observation Chart
9. Create a friendly letter

Art Activities

1. A Storyboard
2. Create a collage
3. Design a cover for the novel
4. Create a comic strip

White Fang

By Jack London



Synopsis

When *White Fang* was first published in 1906, Jack London was well on his way to becoming one of the most famous, popular, and highly paid writers in the world. *White Fang* stands out as one of his finest achievements, a spellbinding novel of life in the northern wilds.

In gripping detail, London bares the savage realities of the battle for survival among all species in a harsh, unyielding environment. *White Fang* is part wolf, part dog, a ferocious and magnificent creature through whose experiences we see and feel essential rhythms and patterns of life in the animal kingdom and among mankind as well.

It is, above all, a novel that keenly observes the extraordinary working of one of nature's greatest gifts to its creatures: the power to adapt. Focusing on this wondrous process, London created in *White Fang* a classic adventure story as fresh and appealing for today's audiences as for those who made him among the bestselling novelists of his day. [Summary courtesy of the publisher]

Author Biography

Jack London

Jack London, whose life symbolized the power of will, was one of the most successful American writers of the early 20th Century. His stories of men and animals against the environment, and survival against hardships were drawn mainly from his own experiences. London grew up in poverty in the slums of Oakland, California. At the age of 17, he ventured to sea on a sealing ship. The turning point of his life was a thirty-day imprisonment that was so degrading it made him decide to turn to education and pursue a career in writing. His years in the Klondike searching for gold resonate in many of his stories and novels, among them, *The Call of the Wild*, and *White Fang*. Another of his novels, *The Sea-Wolf*, was based on his experiences at sea. He retired to his ranch near Sonoma, where he died at age 40. (Adapted from www.jacklondon.com)



White Fang



By Jack London

Name: _____

White Fang

By Jack London

Chapter 1



Before you read the chapter:

The **protagonist** in most novels features the main character or “good guy”. *White Fang* features a rather different protagonist, a protagonist that is part wolf and part dog. Think back on some favorite characters from past novels you have read or movies you’ve seen. What do you think makes for an especially fascinating **protagonist**? Who is your all time favorite **protagonist**?



Vocabulary:

Choose a word from the list to complete each sentence.

cartridge	ember	disaster	voracious
cinnamon	scaffold	instinct	smoulder

1. The wolf pup had a _____ appetite.
2. He built a _____ in the tree and hoisted the coffin onto it.
3. His every _____ told him to leave the mansion at once.
4. The hunter levered another _____ into his rifle.
5. As soon as the rain started, the fire began to _____.
6. Losing their supplies down the crevice was the latest _____ to befall them.
7. Chantelle took an _____ from the fire and tossed it at the wolf.
8. The wolf pup was the color of _____.

Questions



1. What is the setting of the story in the Chapter One?

2. What evidence do you find in this chapter that the two men were ill-prepared for such a trip?

3. What hint do we have in Chapter One that the she-wolf was not necessarily a wolf?

4. How do you think it was possible for the dogs to keep disappearing in the night without waking the men?

5. Describe how Bill met his end.

6. How did Henry prevent the wolves from getting the body in the coffin?

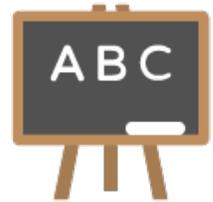
b. Why do you think the men didn't do this earlier?

7. Describe how Henry escaped death *by the skin of his teeth*.

Language Activity



A. Many authors enjoy using **alliteration** – a literary device in which the same sound is repeated at the beginning of several words. Here's one such example: from Chapter One: *A faint cry cut through the sunless sky.*



Using your imagination, create your own examples of **alliteration** from the following topics. Each example must contain a minimum of three words.

A blizzard.	
A forest at night	
Your choice	

B. Anagrams

An **anagram** is a word that is formed by changing the order of the letters of another word. For example, the letters in the word **WAS** can also form the word **SAW**. Follow these directions to form the anagrams:



a) read the clue in the right-hand column.

b) Using the word in the left-hand column move the letters around in any order, but you must use all the letters.

Word	Anagram	Clue
remains		Troops trained to serve on land or sea.
scrape		Skips; dances.
warned		Prison official.
shout		A direction.
brush		A small woody plant.
forest		Not as harsh.
beset		Vegetables.
sapling		Expiring.

C. Personification is giving human qualities to something that is not human. Here's an example from this section: *They stared into the blackness surrounding them.*

Describe how **the blackness** is personified in this example.

Create your own example of personification.

D. A **simile** is a comparison using the words “like” or “as”. An example from this chapter is, *The wolves circled nearer than ever, as bold as moths around a candle.* What two things are being compared in this example?

--	--

Invent your own **similes** comparing the following items with something from your own imagination:

a) the howl of a hungry wolf

b) a thunderstorm

Look for a **simile** in the remaining chapters of the novel. When you find one return to this question and record it below.

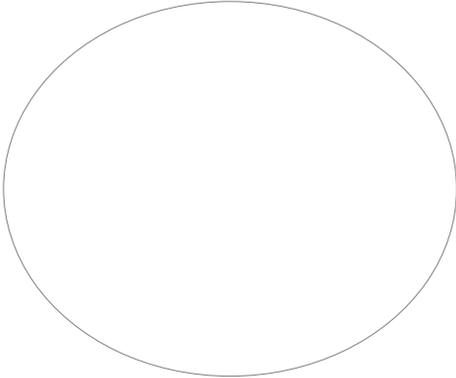
The Gray (or Timber) Wolf

Gray wolves in the wild are usually found in packs of five to 12 animals. There is one alpha male and one alpha female in the pack. A hierarchy of dominant and subordinate animals within the pack helps them to function as a unit. Only one female in the pack breeds each year to the alpha male. The pack communicates with one another by using body language, facial expressions, scents and vocalizations such as howling. The rules of the pack are very important to them, as instinct tells them their survival depends on it. Their diet consists of bison, moose, elk, caribou, deer, rabbit, hare, beaver, mice and other rodents, and fish along with other animals. [Courtesy: Dog Breed Info website]

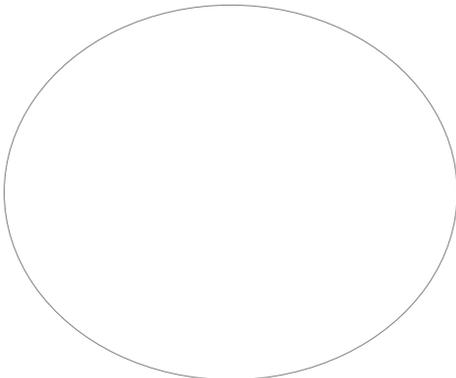


E. 5 Ws and an H.

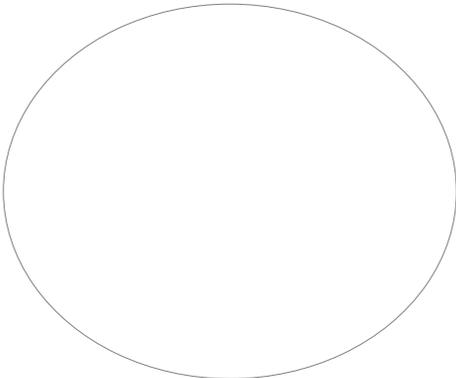
Choose an event from this section that you thought was really important and/or exciting. Using facts that you gleaned from reading about this event, fill in the balloons below, summarizing what you learned.



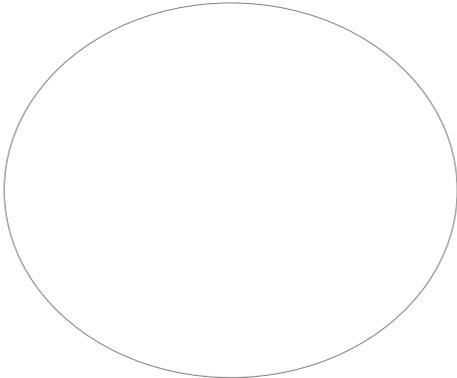
WHO?



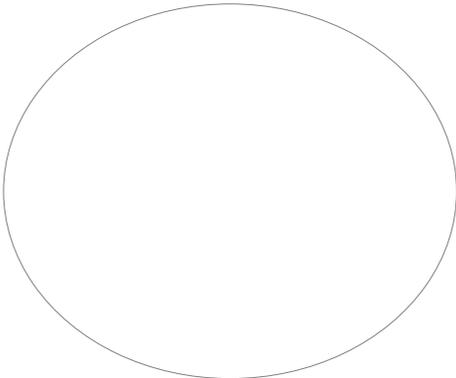
WHAT?



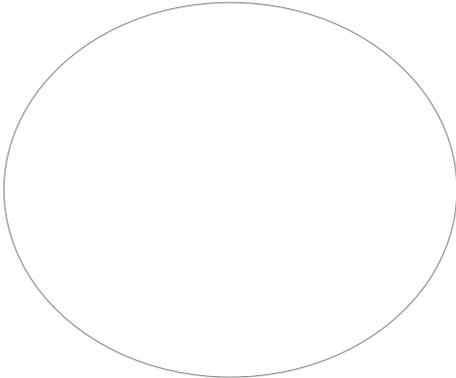
WHEN?



WHERE?



WHY?



HOW?

Extension Activities



A. Storyboard

A storyboard is a series of pictures that tell about an important event in a story. A story-board can tell the story of only one scene – or the entire novel. Complete the story-board below illustrating the events described in this section of *White Fang*. You may wish to practice your drawings on a separate piece of paper.



1	2
3	4
5	6

B. The Quatrain Poem

The **quatrain** is a popular form of rhymed verse. It is a poem of four lines, is usually light and can be humorous. The following quatrain is the first four lines of the poem **The Klondyker's Dream**, written by the author of **White Fang**, Jack London.

*In slumbers of midnight the Klondyker lay;
The snow was fast falling, the cold was intense;
But weary and hungry, his cares flew away,
And visions of dinners were calling him hence.*



Various rhyming schemes make up a quatrain poem. As you can see, the above four lines have a rhyming scheme of **A - B - A - B**. Other rhyming schemes include: ABCA, AAAA, AABA, ABBA, ABBA, and AAAB.

Your task is to write your own quatrain poem. You may choose a rhyming scheme that fits with your own personal creation. The theme should have something to do with the themes established in the first chapter of our novel (i.e. the Arctic, gray wolves, sled dogs, etc.)

The Quatrain Poem

Now create your own quatrain poem. Your poem must follow the format of a quatrain poem described above (and must rhyme).

Title: _____
