



Call of the Wild Illustrated Edition

School Show Study Guide
from the Artist

Luther Burbank Center for the Arts
Wednesday, January 30, 2019

THEATRE HEROES
PRESENTS

JACK LONDON'S

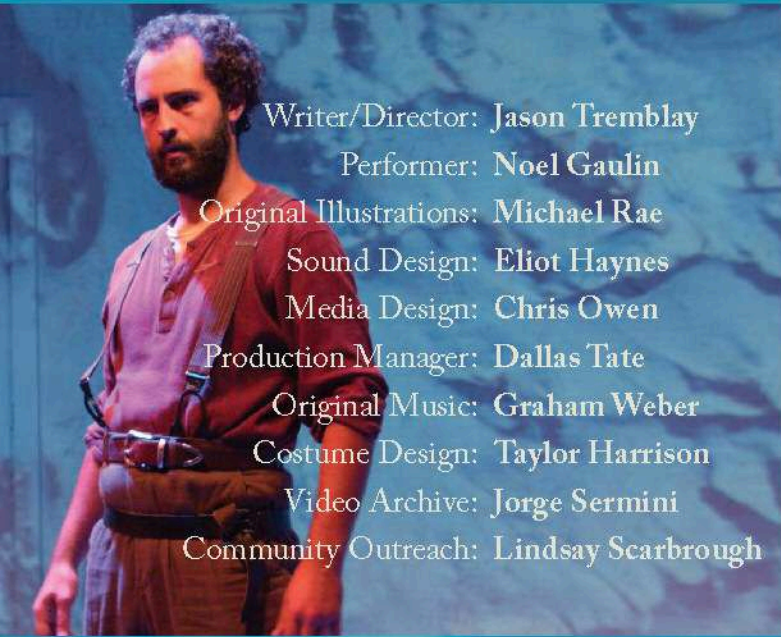
CALL OF THE WILD

ILLUSTRATED
EDITION



ACADEMY FOR THE ARTS

STATESIDE AT THE PARAMOUNT
JANUARY 10-15, 2017 • AUSTIN, TEXAS



Writer/Director: Jason Tremblay
 Performer: Noel Gaulin
 Original Illustrations: Michael Rae
 Sound Design: Eliot Haynes
 Media Design: Chris Owen
 Production Manager: Dallas Tate
 Original Music: Graham Weber
 Costume Design: Taylor Harrison
 Video Archive: Jorge Sermini
 Community Outreach: Lindsay Scarbrough

WHO IS JACK LONDON?

Jack London, whose life symbolized the power of will, was the most successful writer in America in the early 20th Century. His vigorous stories of men and animals against the environment, and survival against hardships were drawn mainly from his own experience. London passed his childhood in poverty in the Oakland slums. At the age of 17, he ventured to sea. 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 left their mark in his best short stories; among them, *The Call of the Wild*, and *White Fang*. His work embraced the concepts of unconfined individualism and Darwinism in its exploration of the laws of nature.

LEARN MORE:

Research Jack London's fascinating life to find the answers to the following questions.

Jack decided to turn things around after spending a month in jail. What crime was he imprisoned for? _____

Before venturing on the Yukon Trail, London spent a short time attending what esteemed college in California? _____

How old was London when *Call of the Wild* was published? _____

In the 17 years that London was a writer, how many books did he write? _____



WHAT'S YOUR TAKE? ★★★★★

Write a review of the show. What was great? What questions were you left with? Was there anything that could be improved? Be sure to shade in the number of stars you'd give this production.



WHO ARE THE THEATRE HEROES?

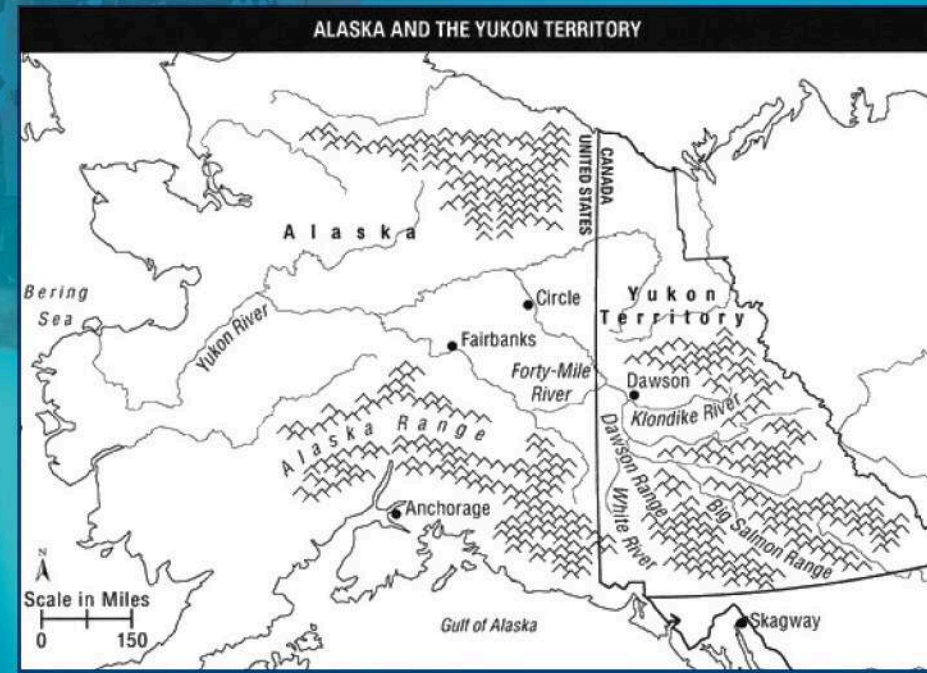
Theatre Heroes is an Austin-based company of artists who create high quality touring performances for young audiences and those young at heart. They are theatre makers, fearless adventures, and terrified mistake makers. They celebrate the live theatre experience as a launch pad for promoting creativity and innovation. They make story and adventure; encouraging youth to pursue their own dreams and keep this art form alive. They strive to create a world of infinite possibilities and limitless imagination where anyone can be their own hero.

Learn more at theatreheroes.org

Theatre Heroes prides themselves in learning from their mistakes. Write about a mistake you've made that you ended up learning a lot from.

The company encourages audience members to chase their dreams. Write about one of your dreams that you're determined to achieve.

MAP IT OUT



Trace the path of Buck's journey through from Skagway, through the Yukon, all the way to Dawson.

Use the scale to calculate the number of miles Buck traveled: _____

CHARLES DARWIN & BUCK



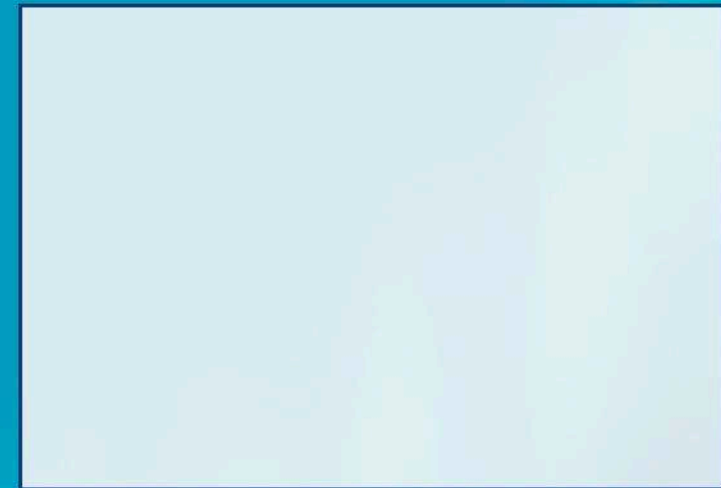
In 1859, the scientist Charles Darwin published a book called *The Origin of Species*. This book provided the world with evidence of evolution. Evolution is the process by which different kinds of living organisms are thought to have developed and diversified from earlier forms during the history of the earth.

A big part of an animal's evolution is its ability to adapt to new surroundings and situations. Buck must adapt to many new situations in *Call of the Wild*. **Fill in the chart below to further explore how Buck is able to adapt and succeed in a new environment.**

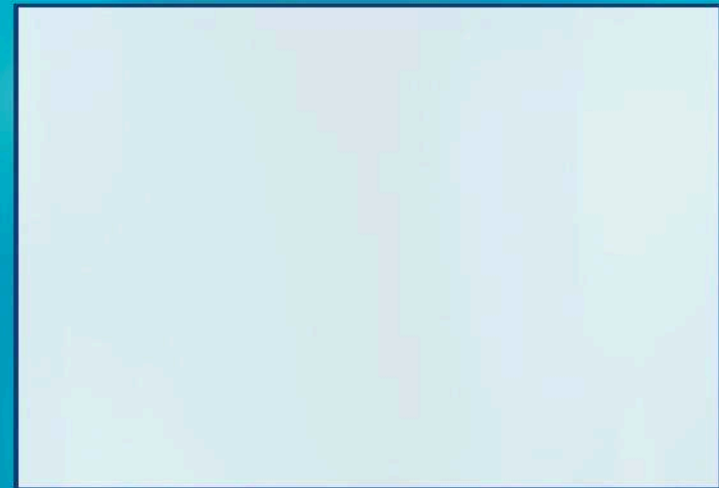
SITUATION	HOW BUCK CHANGES OR ADAPTS
Manuel betrays Buck.	Buck begins to be mistrustful of men.

BEFORE & AFTER

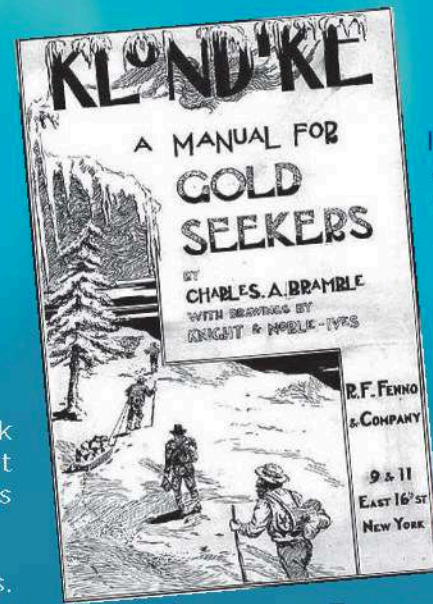
Imagine what Buck looked like back at Judge Miller's place. Draw Buck in that setting.



Now draw a picture of Buck at the end of the story. Show how Buck has changed, adapted, and evolved from one picture to the next.



THE GOLDEN CATALYST



In 1848, a man named James Marshall discovered gold in California. This started a major trend in the United States, thousands of people from all over began migrating to the West coast in search of the precious metal and the wealth that accompanied it. In the late 1800's people moved their golden search northward to Alaska and a north-western region on Canada known as the Klondike. This is where our story, *Call of the Wild*, takes place. A select few found enough gold to secure the wealth they sought after. For most, however, these journeys were fruitless.

For many Americans, traveling to the Klondike in search of gold was the key to the American Dream.

In your own words, what is the American Dream? What is your American Dream?

MUSH!

For centuries, sled dogs were the best form of transportation available in Alaska. Buck and his various masters travelled the Yukon by sled. **Can you label the image below with these vocabulary terms?**

- MUSHER
- WHEEL DOGS
- TEAM DOGS
- SWING DOGS
- THE SLED
- LEAD DOGS

Can be any age, sex or race. They relay commands to the team and sometimes run behind the sled to speed it along.

They provide the "horsepower" of the team and help turn the sled.

They help set the pace and turn the sled around corners.



Older versions are made out of wood, but modern ones are built of space-age materials such as Kevlar and Titanium.

They are placed directly ahead of the sled and tend to be the strongest dogs on the team.

They are the head of the team. They respond to the musher's commands, find-and-follow the trails, and set the pace of the team.

PACK YOUR PACK



While packing for a Klondike excursion, one had to ensure that they had plenty of clothing, food, and supplies. They also had to be mindful of how much weight they were carrying so that they weren't slowing or exhausting their sled dogs. What would you pack if you were to venture onto the Yukon Trail in search of gold?

COLD WEATHER CONVERSIONS

Celsius to Fahrenheit formula

$$F = C \cdot \frac{9}{5} + 32$$

Fahrenheit to Celsius formula

$$C = (F - 32) \cdot \frac{5}{9}$$

- As we know, the Yukon region is full of snow and harsh weather conditions in the winter. This part of the world has a subarctic climate. During the coldest seasons, temperatures can get down to -50 degrees Celsius.
- In the summer, surprisingly, the Yukon gets pretty warm with high temperatures averaging 77 degrees Fahrenheit.

Convert -50° Celsius to Fahrenheit: _____

Convert 77° Fahrenheit to Celsius: _____

INTERPRET THE TITLE

Now that you've seen the play and learned more about the story's background in this guide, interpret the title's significance. What is the "Call of the Wild"? How did it apply to Buck?

KEEP QUESTIONING

Continue thinking about the following questions as you process this incredible story.

- Who was your favorite and least favorite character in "Call of the Wild"?
- What was it about these characters that made them stand out to you?
- Were the actions of your least favorite character justified?
- The story is mainly told from Buck's point of view. How does this perspective influence how you feel about Buck?
- How might the story change if it were told from the dog trainer's point of view?
- Is Buck better off at the end of the novel than he was at the beginning?