



James Island Christian School

2026 Summer Reading Assignment

James Island Christian School

Eighth Grade Honors and CP

The specific guidelines for 8th Grade follow:

Rising Eighth Grade

Call of the Wild: 9781945644511

Students will read **one** required book, *Call of the Wild*, by Jack London. A **test** will be given on this book during the first week of school. The test will include objective and subjective questions pertaining to details of the story and the writing of a one paragraph character analysis of Buck. This character analysis includes these elements: physical appearance, personality description, character traits possessed by the main character, and **Buck's or the author's perspective on why Buck reverts to the call of the wilderness.** (Observe these elements as you read the book this summer. In addition, it is highly recommended you take notes on these elements as you observe them since this will aid you with review preparation for your one paragraph character analysis of Buck.

Each student will read through the items below **BEFORE** embarking on reading *Call of the Wild*. When completing the following, the student should remember that the use of proper grammar is essential; therefore, please check your work for proper spelling, punctuation, agreement, and capitalization. Finally, use sentence openers (starter words) to begin each of your answers and transition words and phrases between your paragraphs.

- Setting: The setting is the time and place of the story. Usually the setting is established very early in the narrative. Your job is to explain in detail the setting of *Call of the Wild*; therefore, write three to five complete sentences establishing the novel's setting.

- Character: Excellent stories have characters who are detailed, complex, and well rounded in nature. They exhibit good and evil qualities. For each character indicated below, with complete sentences, explain the characters' strengths and weaknesses and two to three interesting facts that illustrate why the characters are important to *Call of the Wild*.
 - A. Buck
 - B. Spitz
 - C. Francois and Perrault
 - D. John Thornton

- Plot Points: Explain the following plot points in complete sentences.
 - A. Exposition: Write three sentences for each point of the exposition indicating: *main characters, *setting, and the *situation. These are nearly always found near the beginning of the story.
 - B. Inciting Moment: Write one to two sentences explaining the event that kicks the entire action of the story into motion. This too is usually near the beginning of the story.
 - C. Climax: In three to five sentences, explain the moment of greatest intensity in the story. This usually occurs right before the falling of action
 - D. Denouement: With three to five sentences, explain the resolution to the story, the final outcome.

- Answer each of the following questions in three to four complete sentences.
 - A. How does Buck's treatment on the ranch contrast with the treatment he receives from his new masters?
 - B. In what ways does Buck adapt quickly to his new life?
 - C. How does Buck finally win the leadership of the team?
 - D. In what ways does Buck show his love for Thornton?
 - E. Why does Buck completely revert to the wildness of his ancestry?

- **Take the Challenge:** With 12 to 15 sentences write an essay describing how Jack London uses personification, giving human characteristics to an animal, in developing the character of Buck. Be sure to include strong topic sentences, supporting sentences, and concluding sentences.

This assignment should be written neatly (cursive) in black or blue ink on notebook paper or typed: double space; font size: 12; font style: Times New Roman. These pages should be placed in a folder with a clear cover or bound in a creative way. The student should design an attractive cover that includes the title, author, and a picture depicting the main character of the novel, Buck. The cover picture may be handmade or computer generated.

Have fun with this, and let your creativity flow!

Other cover ideas:

- A. pencil sketch of the main character and /or the setting
- B. collage of pictures or illustrations depicting the main character and objects of this historical time period as described in the novel.

Academic Integrity: Academic research demonstrates that summer reading helps prevent the summer slide, significant achievement gaps, among all student demographics. Consequently, unless a student has official accommodations on file with JICS, he is expected to read independently and without the help of audio recordings, movies, or any other reading aids.

I acknowledge that I have read independently without the use of audio recordings, movies, and other printed reading aids like Sparknotes. Furthermore I have not used ChatGPT (AI) in my written preparations. (Sign and return with your assignment on the first full day of school.)

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____