



The Grammar Dog Guide to The Call of the Wild by Jack London

**All quizzes use sentences from the novel.
Includes over 250 multiple choice questions.**

About Gramwardog

Gramwardog was founded in 2001 by Mary Jane McKinney, a high school English teacher and dedicated grammarian. She and other experienced English teachers in both high school and college regard grammar and style as the key to unlocking the essence of an author.

Their philosophy, that grammar and literature are best understood when learned together, led to the formation of Gramwardog.com, a means of sharing knowledge about the structure and patterns of language unique to specific authors. These patterns are what make a great book *a great book*. The arduous task of analyzing works for grammar and style has yielded a unique product, guaranteed to enlighten the reader of literary classics.

Gramwardog's strategy is to put the author's words under the microscope. The result yields an increased appreciation of the art of writing and awareness of the importance and power of language.



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SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE CALL OF THE WILD by Jack London

EXERCISE 5 COMPLEMENTS

Identify the complements in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

d.o. = direct object

i.o. = indirect object

p.n. = predicate nominative

o.p. = object of preposition

p.a. = predicate adjective

- ___ 1. These men wanted dogs, and the dogs they wanted were heavy dogs, with strong muscles by which to toil, and furry coats to protect them from the frost.
- ___ 2. He was not so large – he weighed only one hundred and forty pounds – for his mother, Shep, had been a Scotch shepherd dog.
- ___ 3. Hunting and kindred outdoor delights had kept down the fat and hardened his muscles; and to him, as to the cold-tubbing races, the love of water had been a tonic and a health preserver.

EXERCISE 6 PHRASES

Identify the phrases in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

par = participial

ger = gerund

inf = infinitive

appos = appositive

prep = prepositional

- ___ 1. His father, Elmo, a huge St. Bernard, had been the Judge's inseparable companion, and Buck bid fair to follow in the way of his father.
- ___ 2. But to his surprise, the rope tightened around his neck, shutting off his breath.
- ___ 3. He had traveled too often with the Judge not to know the sensation of riding in a baggage car.

EXERCISE 9 STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Identify the figurative language in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

p = personification

s = simile

m = metaphor

o = onomatopoeia

- ___ 1. And this was the manner of dog Buck was in the fall of 1897, when the Klondike strike dragged men from all the world into the frozen North.
- ___ 2. This man talked with Manuel, and money chinked between them.
- ___ 3. This time he was aware that it was the club, but his madness knew no caution.

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EXERCISE 12 STYLE: ALLUSIONS AND SYMBOLS

Identify the type of allusion used in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

a. historical b. folklore/superstition c. law/civilization d. primitive/lawlessness

- ___1. The Judge was at a meeting of the Raisin Growers' Association, and the boys were busy organization an athletic club, on the memorable night of Manuel's treachery.
- ___2. He opened his eyes, and into them came the unbridled anger of a kidnapped king.
- ___3. The club was a revelation. It was his introduction to the reign of primitive law, and he met the introduction halfway.

EXERCISE 13 STYLE: LITERARY ANALYSIS – SELECTED PASSAGE 1

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

Buck's first day on the Dyea beach was like a nightmare. Every hour was filled with shock and surprise. He had been suddenly jerked from the heart of civilization and flung into the heart of things primordial. No lazy, sun-kissed life was this, with nothing to do but loaf and be bored. Here was neither peace, nor rest, nor a moment's safety. All was confusion and action, and every moment life and limb were in peril. There was imperative need to be constantly alert; for these dogs and men were not town dogs and men. They were savages, all of them, who knew no law but the law of club and fang.

He had never seen dogs fight as these wolfish creatures fought, and his first experience taught him an unforgettable lesson. It is true, it was a vicarious experience, else he would not have lived to profit by it. Curly was the victim. They were camped near the long store, where she, in her friendly way, made advances to a husky dog the size of a full-grown wolf, though not half so large as she. There was no warning, only a leap in like a flash, a metallic clip of teeth, a leap out equally swift, and Curly's face was ripped open from eye to jaw.

It was the wolf manner of fighting, to strike and leap away; but there was more to it than this. Thirty or forty huskies ran to the spot and surrounded the combatants in an intent and silent circle. Buck did not comprehend that silent intentness, nor the eager way with which they were licking their chops. Curly rushed her antagonist, who struck again and leaped aside. He met her next rush with his chest, in a peculiar fashion that tumbled her off her feet. She never regained them. This was what the onlooking huskies had waited for. They closed in upon her, snarling and yelping, and she was buried, screaming with agony, beneath the bristling mass of bodies. (Chapter 2 The Law of Club and Fang)

Read the passage a second time, marking figurative language, sensory imagery, poetic devices, and any other patterns of diction and rhetoric, then answer the questions below.

- 1 Buck's first day on the Dyea beach was like a nightmare. Every hour was filled with shock and surprise. He
- 2 had been suddenly jerked from the heart of civilization and flung into the heart of things primordial. No lazy,
- 3 sun-kissed life was this, with nothing to do but loaf and be bored. Here was neither peace, nor rest nor a

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4 moment's safety. All was confusion and action, and every moment life and limb were in peril. There was
5 imperative need to be constantly alert; for these dogs and men were not town dogs and men. They were
6 savages, all of them, who knew no law but the law of club and fang.

7 He had never seen dogs fight as these wolfish creatures fought, and his first experience taught him an
8 unforgettable lesson. It is true, it was a vicarious experience, else he would not have lived to profit by it.

9 Curly was the victim. They were camped near the log store, where she, in her friendly way, made advances
10 to a husky dog the size of a full-grown wolf, thought not half so large as she. There was no warning, only
11 a leap in like a flash, a metallic clip of teeth, a leap out equally swift, and Curly's face was ripped open
12 from eye to jaw.

13 It was the wolf manner of fighting, to strike and leap away; but there was more to it than this. Thirty or
14 forty huskies ran to the spot and surrounded the combatants in an intent and silent circle. Buck did not
15 comprehend that silent intentness, nor the eager way with which they were licking their chops. Curly
16 rushed her antagonist, who struck again and leaped aside. He met her next rush with his chest, in a peculiar
17 fashion that tumbled her off her feet. She never regained them. This was what the onlooking huskies had
18 waited for. They closed in upon her, snarling and yelping, and she was buried, screaming with agony,
19 beneath the bristling mass of bodies.

- ___1. All of the following descriptions are parallel in meaning EXCEPT . . .
- a. *the heart of civilization* (Line 2)
 - b. *lazy, sun-kissed life* (Lines 2-3)
 - c. *nothing to do but loaf and be bored* (Line 3)
 - d. *neither peace, nor rest, nor a moment's safety* (Line 3-4)
- ___2. All of the following descriptions are parallel in meaning EXCEPT . . .
- a. *the heart of things primordial* (Line 2)
 - b. *Curly was the victim* (Line 9)
 - c. *They were savages, all of them* (Line 5-6)
 - d. *the law of club and fang* (Line 6)
- ___3. The underlined words in Line 14 are examples of . . .
- a. assonance b. consonance c. alliteration d. rhyme

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