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.
Before & After

Before Buck looked back at Judge Millet’s place. How back in his olden days.

Now draw a picture of Buck at the end of the story. Now have Buck look adopted, and make Buck work in a picture to the end.

Pack Your Pack

While packing for a Klondike dig, you had to know that they had plenty of supply. You had to pick up some of the most important things they could bring with them. What would you think if you were someone who had the Yukon Gold in search of gold?

Cold Weather Conversions

Converting °Celsius to Fahrenheit

\[ F = \frac{C}{2} + 32 \]

Converting Fahrenheit to Celsius

\[ C = \frac{(F - 32) \times 5}{9} \]

Interpret the Title

How has Buck’s use of the phrase “in search of gold” changed the meaning of the title? What’s the significance of the title? 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 the most significant event that made them stand out to you?
- Were the actions of your favorite character moral?
- The story is told from Buck’s point of view. How does the perspective influence how you feel about Buck? How might the story change if it were told from the dog trainer’s point of view? How is Buck better at the end of the novel than he was at the beginning?

The Golden Catalyst

In 1901, a miner named James Marshall discovered gold in California. This started a major boom in the United States. Thousands of people came to the area, competing to find gold. Many of these people never left, expanding the wealth of Alaska and America. In the western region of Canada known as the Klondike, there is where our story takes place. Call of the Wild. A tale of how Buck really found gold to become the wealthiest people. Many Buck’s journeys were fruitful.

Charles Darwin & Buck

In 1859, the scientist Charles Darwin published a book called The Descent of Species. This book provided the world with evidence of evolution. Darwin’s research, which was based on the research of biologists of the time, led to the development of a new theory. A great part of an animal’s evolution is its ability to adapt to new surroundings and situations. Buck’s life adapts to the new surroundings. We have to believe that the man who found gold in the Klondike was key to the overall story of Buck.

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

How would you describe the relationship between Buck and his master? How did their relationship change over time?

Keep Questioning

Continue thinking about the following questions as you process this incredible story:
EDUCATION & OUTREACH STAFF:
Contact us at education@austintheatre.org

Education & Outreach Director: Jennifer Luck
Associate Director of Education & Outreach: Brian C. Fahey
Community and School Program Manager: Jessica Evans
Literacy to Life Program Manager: Mitch Harris
Education & Outreach Associate: Dale Valley
Resident Music Director: Ammon Taylor

2016-2017 Paramount Season Partners

Thank you to our lobby partner -
Wildlife Rescue is a local nonprofit that rescues and rehabilitates orphaned, injured, and sick wild animals and returns them to the wild when they are ready. They operate a telephone hotline 365 days/year and educate the public about coexisting with wildlife.
Learn more at www.austinwildliferescue.org