



### Buck's story

Buck was a big, strong dog with **thick**, warm fur. He was four years old, and he lived with a rich family in a big house in California.

Buck was part of the family, and everybody loved him. He played with the children and carried them on his back. In summer, he swam with them in the river. On cold winter nights, he lay in front of the fire and slept. His **life** was happy and easy. But, one day, everything changed for Buck.

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**Buck's story**

In 1897, people heard about **gold** in the Klondike, in north-west Canada. Men came from many countries. They hoped to find gold and **become** rich. These men needed dogs to work for them. It was very cold in the Klondike, and the men wanted big, strong dogs with thick fur.

A man called Manuel worked for Buck's family. Manuel needed money. Every day he watched the children playing with Buck. "People will pay a lot of money for Buck," he thought.

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### Buck's story

One night, Buck's family were away from home. Manuel took Buck to a strange part of town and met a man with a **rope**. The man **tied** the rope **around** Buck and gave Manuel some money. Then, the man pushed Buck into a big, strong box.

The next morning, four men carried the box on to a train. Buck stayed on the train for two days and two nights. Nobody brought him food or water. He was hungry, thirsty, and very angry!

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**Buck's story**

The train stopped at the town of Seattle, and a man in a red shirt came to meet it. This man carried an **ax** and a **club**. Some men carried the box with Buck from the train. They put it down on the ground and sat on a high wall to watch.

The man in the red shirt came up to the box and started to hit it with the ax. Buck was now very, very angry. The box opened, and Buck ran out. He really wanted to **attack** the man. The man hit Buck with the club, hard. Buck **fell** to the ground.



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### Buck's story

The man hit Buck again and again. After that, Buck could not **fight** any more. He lay on the ground and watched the man.

"Good dog, Buck," said the man. "You know your place now." He brought meat and water, and Buck ate and drank.

That day, Buck learned an important lesson. He could not fight a man with a club.

In the next days, many other dogs came. Some came in boxes, and others had ropes around them. All of them were very angry.

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**Buck's story**

Sometimes, men came and talked to the man in the red shirt. They paid him money and took away some dogs. One day, a man called Perrault came to see the man in the red shirt. Perrault had an important job; he carried letters for the Canadian **Government**. He knew a lot about dogs, and when he saw Buck he was very happy.

"That's a very good dog!" Perrault said. "How much do you want for him?"

"Three hundred dollars," said the man in the red shirt.



### Buck's story

Perrault paid the man and took Buck away to a ship. He also bought a dog called Curly. Another man, François, waited on the ship. He worked with Perrault. There were two other dogs on the ship—Spitz and Dave. Spitz was a big, white dog from Norway. At dinner, he tried to take Buck's food. But François hit him with a **whip**. Dave was a quiet dog, but he was not friendly. He liked to eat and sleep a lot.

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## Buck's story

The ship traveled north from Seattle. Every day, the weather grew colder. Then, one day, strange white things fell from the sky. Buck tried to eat them, but everybody laughed at him.

"You can't eat snow, Buck!" said François.

The ship stopped at Skagway in Alaska. It was very cold, and the snow was thick on the ground. There was a big **camp** there, with lots of men and dogs. Many of these dogs were big and **dangerous**.

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## Buck's story



Curly was a friendly dog. She ran toward one of the dogs to say hello. But the dog made an angry noise and attacked her. Curly fell on the ground, and Spitz, the big white dog, laughed at her. The other dogs ran toward Curly and attacked her. François came with an ax and the dogs ran away. But Curly was **dead**, and Spitz laughed again. After that, Buck **hated** Spitz.

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## Buck's story



The next day, François put a **harness** on Buck. Then, he tied all the dogs together in a **line**. François stood on a **sled**, and the dogs pulled him.

“That Buck is a very good dog,” François said to Perrault. “He is strong, and he learns quickly.”

Perrault bought more dogs. Their names were Joe, Billee, and Sol-leks. Joe and Billee were brothers, and Sol-leks was an old dog with only one eye. Then Perrault bought three more dogs; now he had a **team** of nine.

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**Buck's story**

Buck watched the other dogs and learned many new things from them. At night, the dogs slept under the snow. When they were thirsty, they **broke** the hard **ice** and drank the water under it.

In his home in the south, Buck never took food from people or other animals. But now he was always hungry because he worked hard. The men gave him fish, but he wanted more.

So he thought about how to get more food.

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## Buck's story



One day, Buck watched Pike, one of the new dogs. Pike took some meat from François, but François did not see him. The next day, Buck did the same thing. After that, he often took food from people and other dogs.

Spitz was the number-one dog in the line. Spitz hated Buck, and he always tried to attack him. Buck hated Spitz, too, but he did not want to fight him.

“One day, there’s going to be a big **fight** between Spitz and Buck,” said Perrault. “And Spitz will kill Buck.”

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