

Classics Quick Check

Analyze Plot • Lexile 1120 • Level Z2

| Name _ | Date | |
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Instructions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

- 1. Why does Buck want to take down the moose?
 - (A) He wants revenge for the attack on John Thornton.
 - B The moose is injured, and Buck wants to end its suffering.
 - © He enjoys testing the limits of his hunting ability.
 - ① The moose aggressively attacks, and Buck must defend himself.
- 2. Which of Buck's character traits is best illustrated in his pursuit of the moose?
 - (A) cowardice
 - B perseverance
 - (C) hostility
 - ① weakness

- **3.** Why does the author place the event of Buck hunting the moose directly before Buck's discovery of the invaded camp?
 - A The hunting scene shows that Buck doesn't care for Thornton anymore, setting the stage for Thornton's death.
 - B The hunting scene reinforces that Buck is a domesticated animal, which makes his actions in the next scene all the more surprising.
 - © The hunting scene reveals Buck's growing hatred of people, setting the stage for his rage in the next scene.
 - ① The hunting scene shows how far Buck has evolved as a predator and makes his actions in the next scene more believable.
- 4. What are paroxysms?
 - (A) weapons used by the Yeehats
 - **B** outbursts of strong emotion
 - (C) wild forest creatures
 - (1) long passages of speech



Classics Quick Check (continued)

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- **5.** How does the author foreshadow the destruction of Thornton and the camp?
 - A Buck becomes increasingly worried about something he senses in the air.
 - B Buck's taking down the moose is a symbol of the Yeehat attack.
 - © The dialogue between Thornton and Hans indicates a feeling of fear.
 - ① The timber wolf reappears and distracts Buck from his loyalties.
- **6.** What is an effect of Buck's rampage against the Yeehat tribe?
 - (A) The Yeehats plan a counterattack on Buck.
 - B The Yeehats move their village to a new location.
 - © The Yeehats create a legend about the fierce Ghost Dog.
 - ① The Yeehats begin to worship Buck as an important spirit.

- 7. Which event happens after Buck finds the pool that hides John Thornton's body?
 - (A) He finds Nig dead in the bush.
 - B He takes down the bull moose on his own.
 - © He sees a herd of moose passing by.
 - ① He senses the wolf pack coming near.
- **8.** How does the setting of this part affect the plot?
 - A Because it is summer, the forest is short on prey for Buck to hunt.
 - B Because they are in Yeehat territory, the camp is attacked.
 - © Because they are in the forest, the timber wolves are territorial.
 - D Because it is winter, Buck notices when the scent of the air changes.





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- **9.** Which of the following details from the story refers to an opinion?
 - (A) The Yeehats believe Buck is an evil spirit that haunts them.
 - B Buck kills many Yeehats and chases off the rest.
 - © The Yeehats kill all the men in Thornton's camp.
 - D Buck takes four days to stalk and pull down the moose.
- **10.** Why does Buck return to the site of John Thornton's final resting place each year?
 - A He desires gold and returns there to find it.
 - B He gets lost easily and sometimes ends up there by accident.
 - © He is proud of his conquest of humans and wants to celebrate it.
 - ① He still loves Thornton and wants to remember him.

- 11. Extended Response: What event pushes Buck to finally follow the "call of the wild"? Write a paragraph that identifies the event and explains why it enables him to make the change. Then, describe the internal conflict that this resolves for Buck.
- 12. Extended Response: The author uses this sentence at the end of the story: "It is a great, gloriously coated wolf, like, and yet unlike, all other wolves." In a paragraph, explain how you know that the sentence describes Buck, and then describe how Buck is like the wolves and yet very different from them.

Classics Quick Check Answer Key

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- 1. (C) Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions
- 2. B Analyze Character
- 3. (D) Text Structure
- 4. B Vocabulary
- 5. (A) Analyze Plot
- **6.** (C) Cause and Effect
- 7. (D) Sequence Events
- 8. (B) Analyze Setting
- 9. A Fact or Opinion
- **10.** (D) Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions
- 11. Sample response: The death of John Thornton is the event that severs Buck's ties with the civilized world. He is the only person Buck ever loved. When Thornton dies, it removes the only thing that was causing Buck to waver between staying at the camp and giving himself over to the call of the wild. This resolves his internal conflict of being torn between keeping his role of a sled dog in the civilized world and abandoning the domesticated life to fully adopt his primitive and wild instincts.
- **12.** Answers will vary, but will begin by supplying reasons why the student knows that the line refers to Buck, such as an understanding that Buck has become the leader of the wolves, or the fact that he was described as physically larger than the rest of them. Answers will then compare Buck to the wolves, and may explain the following: Buck is similar because he has the same primitive desires as the wolves, and he is able to hunt, run, track, and do all the other things that they do as well. He is different not only in breed and size, but in mental faculties. He is more cunning than the rest of the wolves, more dignified, and more assertive in his leadership.