

Classics Quick Check

Analyze Plot • Lexile 1120 • Level Z2

Name	Date	

Instructions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

- 1. What does the word ignominiously mean?
  - (A) happily
  - B shamefully
  - © quickly
  - ① desperately
- 2. Why does the introduction of this part include the graphic scene of Curly's death?
  - A It scares the reader into finishing the book more quickly.
  - B It shows Buck's new environment as an extremely savage world.
  - © It shows Curly as a cruel character for approaching the strange dogs.
  - ① It prevents the reader from getting attached to the characters.

- **3.** What effect does Curly's death have on Buck?
  - A He is so shocked at the loss of his friend that he gives up and refuses to work.
  - B He decides he hates men and rebels against François.
  - © He becomes cruel and begins to attack the other dogs.
  - ① He learns that there is no fair play among the dogs, so he has to be tough.
- **4.** Which of the following minor characters makes it clear to Buck that he wants to be left alone?
  - (A) Sol-leks
  - (B) Billee
  - © Joe
  - (D) Spitz



Classics Quick Check (continued)

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- **5.** How do the dogs teach Buck to pull the sled?
  - A They demonstrate while he watches.
  - B They nip him whenever he makes a mistake.
  - © They give him specific instructions before they start.
  - ① They reward him when he does a good job.
- **6.** How does the author build tension in this part of the story?
  - A He vividly shows the dangers awaiting Buck if he does not adapt quickly.
  - B He uses short, choppy sentences to add a suspenseful mood.
  - © He withholds information about Sol-leks to make him more mysterious.
  - ① He plays with the timeline of the story in his foreshadowing and flashbacks.

- 7. Which of the following details from the text shows the effect of the story's setting on Buck's character?
  - A But a friendly little yelp reassured him, and he went back to investigate.
  - (B) It was a hard day's run, up the Canon, through Sheep Camp, past the Scales and the timber line . . .
  - (i) His muscles became as hard as iron, and he grew callous to all ordinary pain.
  - ① Always, they broke camp in the dark, and the first gray of dawn found them hitting the trail . . .
- **8.** Which word best describes Spitz, the lead dog?
  - (A) hesitant
  - (B) fierce
  - © friendly
  - ① meek



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- **9.** Which of the following words means *raised for human use?* 
  - (A) domesticated
  - **B** imperative
  - © placated
  - D belligerent
- **10.** How is Buck's new mode of life different from life in the Southland?
  - (A) He now has to follow a civilized code of life.
  - B He now has a more comfortable living arrangement.
  - © He now has to respect the property of others.
  - ① He now has to live by a primitive code of survival.

- 11. Extended Response: What problems confront Buck in this part of the story, and how does he respond? Write a paragraph that identifies at least two problems and their solutions, and support your answer with examples from the text.
- 12. Extended Response: Write an essay that describes the changes Buck makes to adapt to his new environment and the causes behind each one. Conclude with your opinion on the dog Buck is becoming.

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## Classics Quick Check Answer Key

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- 1. B Vocabulary
- 2. B Analyze Plot
- 3. (D) Cause and Effect
- **4.** (A) Story Elements: Identify Characters
- **5.** (B) Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions
- 6. (A) Analyze Plot
- 7. (C) Analyze Setting
- **8.** (B) Analyze Character
- 9. A Vocabulary
- **10.** (D) Compare and Contrast

- 11. Answers will vary but should describe more than one problem that Buck faces, such as learning his role in the dog sled team, figuring out how to sleep outside in the snow, learning how to interact with the different personalities of the dogs, and so on. Answers will then describe how Buck handles each challenge described.
- 12. Answers will vary but should describe Buck's changes and the causes behind them, for example: Buck is growing leaner and stronger because of the long runs and hard work he is doing, he is becoming more cautious and wary because he sees what happens to other dogs who don't pay attention, he is learning to be cunning and sneaky because he sees other dogs get away with it, and so on. Answers will conclude with the student's opinion on Buck's new character.

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