

Classics Quick Check

Analyze Plot • Lexile 1120 • Level Z2

Name	Date	

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

- 1. What is one thing Thornton and Buck have in common?
 - A They both want to find the rumored Lost Cabin.
 - B They are both unafraid of the wild.
 - ① They both want to return to more primitive roots.
 - ① They are both uncomfortable in the wild.
- 2. What important event happens after the team spends months searching for the fabled lost mine and cabin?
 - A They discover a mysterious, ancient path that leads nowhere.
 - B Pete and Hans find the cabin but don't tell Thornton.
 - © They find a stream with gold deposits in it and work to pan the gold.
 - ① Thornton pays off his debts with the money Buck earns.

- **3.** Which of the following details from the text shows Buck's transformation into a fierce predator?
 - A Irresistible impulses seized him.
 - B There was nothing for the dogs to do, save the hauling in of meat now and again . . .
 - © The salient thing of this other world seemed fear.
 - ① He was a killer, a thing that preyed, living on the things that lived, unaided, alone, by virtue of his own strength . . .
- 4. What is a placer?
 - (A) a placeholder
 - B a wild bird found in the tundra
 - (C) a deposit of gold in a stream
 - a gold brick that is formed after melting gold down



Classics Quick Check (continued)

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- **5.** Which conflict is central to the plot in this part of the story?
 - A Buck becomes increasingly torn between staying with Thornton and pursuing the call of the wild.
 - B Thornton and his companions want gold but can't find the lost cabin.
 - © Thornton and his companions are very hungry and must search for food in the wild.
 - D Buck wants to catch the timber wolf but cannot.
- **6.** What technique does the author use to show what Thornton and his friends think about Buck?
 - (A) dialogue

 - (C) actions
 - ① description of facial expressions

- 7. Why does the author dedicate the end of this part to describing Buck's physical and mental qualities?
 - (A) He is building tension between Buck and the primitive man.
 - B He is emphasizing Buck's transformation from pet to wild animal.
 - © He is developing the connection between Buck and Thornton.
 - ① He is contrasting Buck with the timber wolf to emphasize their differences.
- **8.** What does the timber wolf most likely symbolize?
 - (A) the danger of the forest
 - B animal rivalry
 - © primitive man
 - ① the call of the wild



Classics Quick Check (continued)

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- **9.** How does the hunt for the lost cabin affect Buck?
 - A It gives him a more time in the wild and increases his joy in exploring.
 - B It makes him weary of hunting each day and he tires of the trip.
 - © It gives him bonding time with Thornton and lessens his desire to go into the wild.
 - ① It introduces him to gold and uncovers his secret talent for detecting the precious metal.
- **10.** How is Buck different from the timber wolf?
 - (A) He is more timid.
 - ® He is bigger.
 - (C) He is a better hunter.
 - ① He has stronger instincts.
- 11. Extended Response: How are Buck's visions of primitive man related to the "call of the wild" that he hears? Write a paragraph that analyzes how these two elements are related.

12. Extended Response: Does the author show Buck's response to the "call of the wild" as Buck's choice or beyond his control? Write a paragraph defending your position and supporting your answer with evidence from the text.



Classics Quick Check Answer Key

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- **1.** (B) Compare and Contrast
- 2. © Sequence Events
- 3. D Analyze Character
- 4. © Vocabulary
- 5. (A) Analyze Plot
- **6.** (A) Character Point of View
- 7. (B) Author's Purpose
- **8.** (D) Make inferences / Draw Conclusions
- **9.** (A) Cause and Effect
- **10**. (B) Compare and Contrast

- 11. Students should explain that the visions of primitive man are a reflection of Buck's deeply-rooted instincts to be wild. Answers could include the following: He remembers the times where to eat, sleep, and survive were a primary focus. As Buck reflects on these instincts he is also drawn by the wild around him because he longs to be in an environment that would allow him to return to these instincts. As his connection to his roots deepens, the call of the wild becomes stronger.
- 12. Students may answer that it is Buck's choice or that the call is unable to be denied, but must support their inferences using evidence from the text. If they say it is his choice, they may cite the fact that he stopped his pursuit of the wolf to return to Thornton; this shows he had the mental faculty to deny the pull and consider it further. If they say it is not his choice, they may cite the author's use of phrases like "irresistible impulses" to show that he cannot avoid the pull, and the fact that Buck continues to become more of a predator every day.

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