

The dominant primal beast was strong in Buck. Under the fierce conditions of life as a sled dog, this dominance in him grew and grew. Buck used to be a domesticated canine until his owner decided to sell him off. He was too busy adjusting himself to his new life in the wild to feel at ease. He kept this primal side of him under control. Not only did he not pick fights with the other sled dogs, but he also avoided them whenever one was imminent. While living with other sled dogs, there was an obvious bitter hatred between Spitz and him. For some unknown reason, Spitz seemed to see in him a dangerous rival. After all, it had been a while since their team had welcomed a new member, and Spitz was not the most cordial canine around. While Buck shunned all offensive acts from Spitz, the latter never missed an opportunity to bare his teeth at the former. Spitz even went out of his way to bully Buck, striving constantly to start a fight, but never had Buck so much as lost any fur in all of Spitz's attempts.

One night, owners, Peter and Francis, led the dog sled team to a bleak and miserable campsite on the shore of a lake. The heavy snow, wind that cut like a white-hot knife and darkness had forced them to search for a suitable camping ground for the night. Under one of the sheltering rocks, Buck made himself comfortable in a Man pit on the ground. It was so snug and warm **there** that he was initially reluctant to leave even when Francis was distributing dinner. When Buck had finished his dinner and returned, he found Spitz occupying his spot. For the longest of time Buck had avoided trouble with Spitz, but this was too much. The beast in him roared. He lunged at him, and this took Spitz off guard.

As the two dogs fought, a starving pack of wolves came to the campsite, lured by the smell of food. When Francis and Peter sprang into action to fend the wolves off using stout clubs, they bared their teeth menacingly and fought back. Peter found one wolf with its head buried in a nearby bin. He swung his club, and it landed heavily on the wolf's ribs. He repeated the same at the other wolves rummaging through the campsite, but the wolves took the blows in their stride. They yelped and howled under the rain of blows from both Peter and Francis but kept at what they had invaded the campsite for, determined not to relent until the very last crumb of food had been devoured.

Meanwhile, the astonished sled dogs burst out of their resting spots only to see the ravaging scene before their eyes. Never had Buck seen **such frightful creatures** — mere skeletons with bloodshot eyes — but even that was nothing compared to the terror that they were driven by the force of hunger. Within an instance, Buck was assailed by wolves and immediately after, his head and shoulders were ripped and slashed. The din was frightful, for both canines and humans alike. Buck fought back, biting into a wolf's neck and then flinging himself upon another. Just as he was gaining momentum, he felt teeth sink into his own back. Spitz had treacherously attacked him by stealth. Spitz trotted away with a **triumphant look** as Buck continued fighting off the wolves. Peter and Francis hurried to save their team of sled dogs, gathering and herding them towards safety. The wild wave of famished beasts retreated somewhat as Buck shook himself free. Buck drew himself away from the pack to flee away over the snow with his team. Once the team of sled dogs were a safe distance away, Francis decided to run back to save what was left of the food they had while Peter took care of the sled dogs. Unfortunately, the wolves were still hanging around, revelling in their loot. Still, it was a necessary risk to take, or their chance of surviving the trek to their destination was slim.

As Francis made a beeline for an unguarded pack of food supplies, the nearest wolf pounced on him, sinking its teeth into his calf. Francis let out a piercing scream as he struggled to kick it off, but the wolf held on stubbornly. It was incredible how hunger had driven it to **this**. Both Buck and Spitz, the last to leave the campsite, saw Francis struggling

to get away, Exchanging a knowing look, they turned around and hastened towards the attacker of their owner. They both sprang onto the wolf, with Spitz clamping down on its neck and Buck going for its limbs, it was a fierce battle, but the waif stood no chance against two loyal sled dogs. It released Francis from its bite and Francis scrambled to his feet, not forgetting to grab the pack of supplies. When Francis pulled back, he whistled for Spitz and Buck to follow suit. As the trio headed to join their team, something seemed to have changed between Spitz and Buck. After the incident, Spitz was no longer hostile towards Buck. He was walking alongside him, seemingly supporting his injured teammate, From that rescue, something had changed regarding his misconception of Buck.

Adapted from The Call of the Wild by Jack London

The following answers in blue are regular test paper answers while the answers in gold are generated by Artificial Intelligence and fact checked, grammar checked by teachers.

71. Pick out a word from the first paragraph that tells us that Buck was previously kept as a pet.

“domesticated”

72. List two adverse conditions that led the sled team to camp at the shore of the lake.

1. Heavy snow: The heavy snowfall made it difficult for the sled team to continue their journey, forcing them to search for a suitable camping ground for the night.
2. Wind that cut like a white-hot knife: The strong and cutting wind made the conditions even more challenging, adding to the need for the sled team to find shelter and rest at the shore of the lake.

- i) It was snowing heavily.
- ii) There was a very strong wind that cut like a white-hot knife.

73. Based on the information from paragraphs 1 and 2, fill in the blanks in the following table.

| How Buck felt | What made him feel this way   | How Buck reacted   |
|---------------|---|--|
| uneasy        | Buck had to adjust to life in the wild.   | Buck kept his primal side under control.                               |
| comfortable   | Buck’s spot was snug and warm.  | Buck was reluctant to leave even when Francis was distributing dinner. |
| provoked      | Buck felt provoked when he returned to his spot after finishing dinner and found that Spitz had occupied it. This was the breaking point for Buck, as he had been avoiding trouble with Spitz for a | Buck attacked Spitz.   |

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
|  | <p>long time, but this act of occupying his spot was too much for him to tolerate.</p> <p>Spitz occupied his spot that he wanted.</p> |  |
|--|---|--|

74. Based on paragraph 3, what character trait would you describe the wolves?

"determined."

State the evidence that showed the wolves exhibited the character trait.

The evidence that showed the wolves exhibited determined character is as follows:

1. The wolves were lured to the campsite by the smell of food, indicating their strong drive to find sustenance.
2. Despite being attacked by Peter and Francis with stout clubs, the wolves did not back down and continued to fight back, showing their resilience and determination to obtain the food.
3. The wolves yelped and howled under the rain of blows from Peter and Francis, but they persisted in their efforts to devour every last crumb of food, demonstrating their unwavering determination.
4. Even when Buck and the sled dogs fought back against the wolves, the wolves did not retreat immediately. They continued to attack and engage in a fierce battle, not giving up until they were forced to do so.
5. The wolves remained in the vicinity of the campsite even after the sled dogs had fled to safety, revelling in their loot and refusing to leave until the last bit of food had been consumed.

This evidence collectively shows that the wolves exhibited determined character by their relentless pursuit of food and their refusal to give up despite facing resistance and danger.

Even when and Peter rained on them with clubs, they took the blows in their stride and continued rummaging for food.

75. Explain clearly why Spitz had a "triumphant look" (paragraph 4 bold). Refer to information from an earlier part of the text.

Spitz had a "triumphant look" because he had treacherously attacked Buck by stealth and managed to sink his teeth into Buck's back while Buck was fighting off the wolves. This act of betrayal gave Spitz an advantage over Buck and allowed him to assert his dominance over him. Spitz likely felt victorious and triumphant because he had successfully weakened Buck, his rival, and potentially eliminated him as a threat.

Spitz managed to bite and injure Buck as he viewed Buck as a dangerous rival.

76. Look at the table below. What do the word(s) in the left column refer to in the passage? Write your answer in the column on the right.

| Word(s) from the passage                       | What the word(s) refer(s) to   |
|--|--|
| there (bold in paragraph 2)                    | The word refers to the comfortable pit Buck found under a sheltering rock. |
| such frightful creatures (bold in paragraph 4) | The words refer to the starving pack of wolves that came to the campsite.  |
| this (bold in last paragraph)                  | The word refers to the wolf hanging stubbornly onto Francis's car.         |

- 77.

| What Spitz viewed Buck as  |   |
|--|---|
| a) Before their rescue act:<br><br>Spitz viewed Buck as a dangerous rival.<br><br>Spitz seemed to see Buck as a dangerous rival. | b) After their rescue act:<br><br>Spitz viewed Buck as a teammate and no longer held any hostility towards him.<br><br>Teammate |

78. Based on the story, state whether each statement in the table below is true or false, then give the reason why you think so.

|   | True/False | Reason  |
|---|------------|---|
| The wolves ate all the food at the campsite.  | False      | Francis raced back to save what was left of the food they had.  |
| Francis and Peter were confident that the team could make it to their destination after emerging from the battle with the wolves. | False      | Francis knew that the chances of surviving the trek to their destination was slim unless Francis went to get the last of the food supplies. |
| Spitz and Buck were loyal sled dogs.  | True       | They attacked the wolves to save Francis.   |

79. Write 1, 2 and 3 in the blanks below to indicate the order in which the events occurred in the passage.

3 Buck was attacked by the wolves.

1 The wolves were beaten with clubs.

2 The sled dogs emerged from their resting spots.

80. With reference to paragraph 1 and 5, explain clearly how Spitz's attitude towards Buck changed.

Spitz's attitude towards Buck changed after the incident where they fought off the wolves together. In paragraph 1, it is mentioned that there was an obvious bitter hatred between Spitz and Buck. Spitz saw Buck as a dangerous rival and constantly tried to start fights with him. However, in paragraph 5, after Buck and Spitz fought off the wolves and saved Francis, something seemed to have changed between them. Spitz was no longer hostile towards Buck and was walking alongside him, seemingly supporting his injured teammate. This indicates that the experience of fighting together against a common enemy, the wolves, brought about a change in Spitz's attitude towards Buck. It is likely that Spitz gained a newfound respect for Buck's strength and bravery, which led to a shift in their relationship from hostility to cooperation.

At first, Spitz never missed an opportunity to attack Buck, but in the end he walked alongside him and supported him.

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