

## The Call of the Wild Teacher's Notes A1+ A2

A new film adaptation of Jack London's famous novel returns to the original story and focuses much more on Buck, the dog, than previous films. Pupils will also enjoy recognising Harrison Ford and Omar Sy. The activities below include watching the film trailer without, then with sound, and reading a short, simple article.

### Language and structures :

- landscape vocabulary
- means of transportation
- wild animals
- comparatives

### Culture :

- A famous North American novel by Jack London
- The Klondike Gold Rush, Canada



#### A. Anticipation

■ **Working in groups.** Give each group a different document (a map, the cover of the book, the film poster, a photo of Gold Rush, a photo of Canada in winter, a photo of Canadian animals). Each group prepares 2 or 3 sentences and chooses a speaker: *This a... I can see...* You may need to give the groups help with certain words (*the Yukon, sled dog, novel, gold...*), or you could suggest they leave them blank and add them as they find them in the article and the slideshow. As each speaker presents his/her document, the other pupils fill in the worksheet **(Activity A)**.

#### ■ Oral Recap

The story is about.....

The story takes place in (place).....

The story takes place in (time).....

#### ■ Correction Activity A.

### B.1. Watching the trailer sound off/checking.

The trailer will allow you to introduce the situation and some vocabulary. We suggest first showing it without the sound, asking pupils to concentrate on the images, helping with the vocabulary on the worksheet as needed.

The video is on our site.



### 2. Watching the trailer sound on

A targeted listening activity, where the pupils watch the video again, with sound, and listen out for specific words.



### C. Speaking about the story and the characters.

#### ■ Adjectives and comparatives

Students are asked use the adjectives and place them properly in sentences. *Buck is a brave dog. The Yukon is dangerous. The Yukon is a dangerous place.*

Then, using the sets of flashcards or the slideshow, ask the students to compare animals and places.



### D. Reading and understanding

Give each student the article or at least one paper for two. Ask the students to say what they understand in French, then ask them to say what they understood in English. The idea is to make sure that they have actually understood and to play down the reading. At this stage, with all the vocabulary shuffling activities, they will realize that

they understand a lot of things.



## Final activity : summing up.

■ Ask the students in groups of 4 to find 10 keywords to sum up the story, share and decide together the most relevant.

Ex : Yukon, Buck, Jack London, gold, sled, Jack Thornton, wolf, dangerous, actor, wild

## Video transcription

**Jack Thornton:** The Yukon is a dangerous place. You never know what's coming. I came up here because I... didn't want to be around anyone. And then I met Buck. He was a dog like no other. He'd been spoiled.

**Woman:** Out!

**Man:** Come on, Buck!

**Jack Thornton:** And he'd suffered.

**Man:** Come on!

**Jack Thornton:** But he could not be broken.

**Perrault:** I don't know where you came from, but I know where you are now. Welcome to the last place on the Earth.

**Jack Thornton:** We should let him have a minute. Doesn't look like he's ever seen snow before. How do you feel about an adventure...beyond all maps? We could go, you and I... where no one's ever been before. See what's out there.

I'm glad you're enjoying this!

**Françoise:** I never saw him believe in anything as much as he believes in you.

**Jack Thornton:** What do you say, Buck?

Adventure of a lifetime. You've been sleeping for two days. In my bed.

## Solutions

**A.2.a.** Alaska, the Yukon, Canada, the U.S.A., California, map

**b.** a book, the title, the writer, a sled dog, a novel

**c.** an actor, the title, a poster

**d.** snow, mountains, a forest, a waterfall, a lake

**e.** a gold prospector, a pan, gold, a river

**f.** a wolf, a grizzly bear, a moose

### B.1.

Places		Transport		Animals		People	
a mountain	✓	a boat	✓	a dog	✓	an old man	
a lake	✓	a car		a wolf	✓	a young man	
a river	✓	a train	✓	a grizzly bear	✓	a little girl	
a cabin	✓	a sled	✓	a moose	✓	an Inuit woman	
a forest	✓	a canoe	✓	a bison		an old woman	

### 2.

Yukon	✓	dangerous	✓	Buck	✓	bed	✓
Canada		cold		dog	✓	adventure	✓
snow	✓	cruel		moose		train	✓