

LITERATURE & FICTION

# Jack London

## The Call of the Wild

### [ze słownikiem]

Zew krwi

Z PODRĘCZNYM SŁOWNIKIEM ANGIELSKO-POLSKIM

Poziom C1

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dla osób znających język angielski co najmniej na poziomie C1

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# The Call of the Wild

## Chapter I. Into the Primitive

"Old **longings** **nomadic** leap,

**Chafing** at custom's chain;

Again from its **brumal** sleep

**Wakens** the ferine strain."

Buck did not read the newspapers, or he would have known that trouble was **brewing**, not alone for himself, but for every tide-water dog, strong of muscle and with warm, long hair, from Puget Sound to San Diego.

Because men, **groping** in the **Arctic** darkness, had found a **yellow metal**, and because **steamship** and transportation companies were booming the find, thousands of men were rushing into the Northland. These men wanted dogs, and the dogs they wanted were heavy dogs, with strong muscles by which to **toil**, and **furry** coats to protect them from the **frost**.

Buck lived at a big house in the sun-kissed Santa Clara Valley. Judge **Miller's** place, it was called. It stood back from the road, half hidden among the trees, through which glimpses could be caught of the wide cool **veranda** that ran around its four sides. The house was approached by **gravelled driveways** which wound about through wide-spreading lawns and under the **interlacing boughs** of tall **poplars**.

At the rear things were on even a more **spacious** scale than at the front. There were great stables, where a dozen **grooms** and boys held forth, **rows** of **vine**-clad servants' cottages, an endless and **orderly** array of **outhouses**, long **grape arbors**, green **pastures**, **orchards**, and **berry** patches.

**primitive** - prymityw, prymitywny

**longings** - (long) tęsknić, tęsknota

**nomadic** - nomadyczny

**chafing** - otarcia, odparzenie

**brumal** - zimowy

**wakens** - budzi się, budzić, obudzić się

**brewing** - warzenie piwa, warzenie

**groping** - obmacywać, szukać po omacku

**arctic** - arktyczny, Arktyka

**yellow metal** - mosiądz, żółte złoto

**steamship** - statek parowy, parowiec

**toil** - trud

**furry** - kudłaty, puszysty, futrzany, furas

**frost** - mróz, oszronić, lukrować, polukrować

**miller** - Młynarski, Młynarska

**veranda** - weranda

**gravelled** - żwirowane, żwir

**driveways** - podjazdy, podjazd do domu

**interlacing** - przeplatać, splatać

**boughs** - konary, gałąź, konar

**poplars** - topole, topola

**spacious** - przestronny, obszerny

**grooms** - stajennych, oporządzić,

wyszczotkować, stajenny, pan młody

**rows** - rzędy, wiosłować, rząd

**vine** - winorośl, pnącze

**orderly** - uporządkowany, ordynans

**outhouses** - budynki gospodarcze, wychodek,

wygódka, sławojka, latryna

**grape** - winogrono, winogronowy

**arbors** - altany, altana

**pastures** - pastwiska, pastwisko

**orchards** - sady, sad

**berry** - jagoda

Then there was the pumping plant for the **artesian** well, and the big **cement** tank where Judge Miller's boys took their morning plunge and **kept cool** in the hot afternoon.

And over this great **demesne** Buck ruled. Here he was born, and here he had lived the four years of his life. It was true, there were other dogs, There could not but be other dogs on so vast a place, but they did not count.

They came and went, resided in the **populous kennels**, or lived **obscurely** in the **recesses** of the house after the fashion of **Toots**, the **Japanese pug**, or Ysabel, the **Mexican hairless**,-strange creatures that rarely put nose out of doors or set foot to ground.

On the other hand, there were the **fox terriers**, a score of them at least, who **yelped fearful** promises at Toots and Ysabel looking out of the windows at them and protected by a **legion** of **housemaids** armed with **brooms** and **mops**.

But Buck was neither house-dog nor **kennel**-dog. The whole realm was his.

He plunged into the swimming tank or went hunting with the Judge's sons; he **escorted** Mollie and Alice, the Judge's daughters, on long **twilight** or early morning **rambles**; on **wintry** nights he lay at the Judge's feet before the **roaring** library fire; he carried the Judge's **grandsons** on his back, or rolled them in the grass, and guarded their **footsteps** through wild adventures down to the **fountain** in the stable yard, and even beyond, where the **paddocks** were, and the berry patches.

Among the terriers he **stalked imperiously**, and Toots and Ysabel he utterly ignored, for he was king,-king over all creeping, crawling, flying things of Judge Miller's place, humans included.

His father, Elmo, a huge St. Bernard, had been the Judge's **inseparable** companion, and Buck bid fair to follow in the way of his father. He was not so large,-he weighed only one hundred and forty pounds,-for his mother, Shep, had been a Scotch **shepherd dog**.

Nevertheless, one hundred and forty pounds, to which was added the dignity that comes of good living and universal respect, enabled him to carry himself in right royal fashion.

**artesian** - artezyjski  
**cement** - cement  
**kept cool** - utrzymywać w chłodzie; trzymać nerwy na wodzy; keep one's cool zachować zimną krew, nie dać się wytrącić z równowagi

**demesne** - domena, dominium

**populous** - ludny  
**kennels** - hodowle, buda, psiarnia, ryszotok  
**obscurely** - niejasno  
**recesses** - przerwy, zakamarek  
**toots** - (toot) zatrzeć, zagwizdać, trąbienie, gwizd  
**japanese** - japoński, Japończyk, Japonka  
**pug** - mops  
**mexican** - Meksykanin, Meksykanka, meksykański  
**hairless** - bezwłosy

**fox** - lis, lisica, liszka  
**terriers** - teriery, terrier  
**yelped** - krzyknął, krzyknąć, zaskowyczeć, zaskomleć  
**fearful** - przestraszony, strachliwy  
**legion** - legion  
**housemaids** - pokojówki, pokojówka  
**brooms** - miotły, zamiatać miotłą, miotła, żarnowiec miotłasty  
**mops** - mopy, mop

**kennel** - buda, psiarnia, ryszotok

**escorted** - eskortowany, eskorta, konwój, świta  
**twilight** - zmierzch, zmrok, półmrok, półzmrok  
**rambles** - pisać się, wędrować, przechadzać się, wędrować, przechadзка  
**wintry** - zimowy  
**roaring** - (roar) grzmieć, huczeć, ryk, wycie, ryczący, huczący  
**grandsons** - wnuki, wnuk-pr, wnuczek-pr  
**footsteps** - odgłos kroku, krok, ślad  
**fountain** - fontanna, wodotrysk  
**paddocks** - padoki, padok, wybieg

**stalked** - prześladowany, iść sztywnym krokiem, podchodzić  
**imperiously** - władczo

**inseparable** - nierozłączny, nieodłączny  
**shepherd dog** - pies pasterski

During the four years since his **puppyhood** he had lived the life of a **sated aristocrat**; he had a fine pride in himself, was even a **trifle egotistical**, as country gentlemen sometimes become because of their **insular** situation. But he had saved himself by not becoming a mere **pampered** house-dog.

Hunting and **kindred** outdoor delights had kept down the fat and **hardened** his muscles; and to him, as to the cold-tubbing races, the love of water had been a **tonic** and a health **preserver**.

And this was the manner of dog Buck was in the fall of 1897, when the Klondike strike dragged men from all the world into the frozen North. But Buck did not read the newspapers, and he did not know that Manuel, one of the **gardener's helpers**, was an **undesirable acquaintance**. Manuel had one **besetting** sin. He loved to play Chinese lottery.

Also, in his gambling, he had one besetting weakness-faith in a system; and this made his **damnation** certain. For to play a system requires money, while the wages of a gardener's **helper** do not lap over the needs of a wife and numerous **progeny**.

The Judge was at a meeting of the **Raisin Growers' Association**, and the boys were busy organizing an **athletic** club, on the memorable night of Manuel's **treachery**. No one saw him and Buck go off through the **orchard** on what Buck imagined was merely a **stroll**. And with the exception of a **solitary** man, no one saw them arrive at the little flag station known as College Park.

This man talked with Manuel, and money **chinked** between them.

"You might wrap up the goods before you deliver 'm," the stranger said **gruffly**, and Manuel doubled a piece of **stout** rope around Buck's neck under the **collar**.

"Twist it, an' you'll **choke** 'm plentee," said Manuel, and the stranger **grunted** a ready **affirmative**.

Buck had accepted the rope with quiet dignity. To be sure, it was an **unwonted** performance: but he had learned to trust in men he knew, and to give them credit for a wisdom that **outreached** his own. But when the ends of the rope were placed in the stranger's hands, he **growled menacingly**. He had merely intimated his

**puppyhood** - szczeniectwo, okres szczenięcy  
**sated** - nasycony, nasycać, zaspokajać, przesycać, (arch) siedzieć  
**aristocrat** - arystokrata, arystokratka, szlachcic, szlachcianka  
**trifle** - fraszka, drobiazg, blahostka, bzdet  
**egotistical** - egoista  
**insular** - wyspowy, wyspiarski  
**pampered** - rozpieszczać

**kindred** - krewni, rodzina, blisko spokrewniony, bratni  
**hardened** - utwardzony, utwardzić, zahartować, uodpornić, twardeń  
**tubbing** - (tub) pojemnik, kubek, pudelko, wanna, łajba  
**tonic** - tonik, lek tonizujący, balsam, pokrzepienie, wzmacniający  
**preserver** - konserwator, ochrona, osoba ochraniająca, wybawiciel, strażnik

**gardener** - ogrodnik, ogrodniczka, badylarz  
**helpers** - pomocników, pomocnik, pomocnica  
**undesirable** - niepożądane, niepożądany  
**acquaintance** - znajomość, znajomy, znajoma  
**besetting** - obleganie, dręczyć, osaczyć

**damnation** - potępienie  
**helper** - pomocnik, pomocnica  
**progeny** - potomstwo, progenitura

**raisin** - rodzynka, rodzynek  
**growers** - hodowcy, hodowca  
**athletic** - sportowy, atletyczny, wysportowany  
**treachery** - zdrada  
**orchard** - sad  
**stroll** - spacer, przechadzka, spacerować, przechadzać  
**solitary** - izolatka, jeden, samotniczy, samotny, ustronny

**chinked** - wyszczerbiony, zabrzączyć, zadzwonić, szczelina, brzęk

**gruffly** - opryskliwie, szorstko  
**stout** - tęg, korpulentny, mocny  
**collar** - kołnierz, kołnierzyk, obroża, korona

**choke** - zadławić się, dusić, zaksztusić się  
**grunted** - chrząknąć, stęknąć, burknąć, chrząknięcie, stęknięcie  
**affirmative** - afirmacyjny, afirmatywny

**unwonted** - niechciane, niezwykły, niezwyczajny, niecodzienny  
**outreached** - dotrzeć  
**growled** - warknął, warczenie  
**menacingly** - groźnie  
**displeasure** - niezadowolenie

**displeasure**, in his pride believing that to intimate was to command.

But to his surprise the rope tightened around his neck, shutting off his breath. In quick rage he sprang at the man, who met him halfway, **grappled** him close by the throat, and with a **deft** twist threw him over on his back. Then the rope tightened **mercilessly**, while Buck struggled in a **fury**, his tongue **lolling** out of his mouth and his great chest **panting futilely**.

Never in all his life had he been so **vilely** treated, and never in all his life had he been so angry. But his strength **ebbed**, his eyes **glazed**, and he knew nothing when the train was flagged and the two men threw him into the **baggage car**.

The next he knew, he was **dimly** aware that his tongue was hurting and that he was being **jolted** along in some **kind of** a **conveyance**. The **hoarse shriek** of a **locomotive whistling** a crossing told him where he was. He had travelled too often with the Judge not to know the sensation of riding in a **baggage car**. He opened his eyes, and into them came the **unbridled** anger of a kidnapped king.

The man sprang for his throat, but Buck was too quick for him. His **jaws** closed on the hand, nor did they relax till his senses were **choked** out of him once more.

"**Yep**, has fits," the man said, hiding his **mangled** hand from the **baggage man**, who had been attracted by the sounds of struggle. "I'm **takin**"m up for the boss to 'Frisco. A crack dog-doctor there thinks that he can cure 'm."

Concerning that night's ride, the man spoke most **eloquently** for himself, in a little shed back of a saloon on the San Francisco water front.

"All I get is fifty for it," he **grumbled**; "an'I wouldn't do it over for a thousand, cold cash."

His hand was wrapped in a **bloody handkerchief**, and the right **trouser** leg was ripped from knee to ankle.

"How much did the other **mug** get?" the saloon-**keeper** demanded.

"A hundred," was the reply. "Wouldn't take a **sou** less, so help me."

"That makes a hundred and fifty," the saloon-keeper calculated; "and he's worth it, or I'm a **squarehead**."

**grappled** - mocować się, zmagać się, walka

**deft** - zręczny

**mercilessly** - bezlitośnie

**fury** - wściekłość, Furia

**lolling** - zwiesić, wywiesić, zwisnąć

**panting** - dyszenie, (pant) dyszeć, sapać, ziając, wydyszeć

**futilely** - daremnie

**vilely** - nikczemnie, okrutnie

**ebbed** - odpływ

**glazed** - glazura, polewa, szklić, oszklić

**baggage car** - samochód; wagon bagażowy

**dimly** - ciemno, blado, słabo, niewyraźnie

**jolted** - szarpnięcie, wstrząs, szok

**kind of** - trochę, tak jakby

**conveyance** - przewóz, transport

**hoarse** - chrypka, zachrypnięty, ochryply

**shriek** - wrzask, krzyk, krzyczeć, krzyknąć

**locomotive** - lokomotywa

**whistling** - gwizdanie, (whistle) gwizdać, śmignąć, gwizdek, gwizd

**baggage** - bagaż, balast, bagażowy

**unbridled** - nieokiełznany

**jaws** - szczęki, szczeka

**choked** - zakrztusił się, zadławić się, dusić, zaksztusić się

**yep** - tak, no, ta

**mangled** - zmanipulowany, zmiążdżyć, wyżymaczka, magiel

**baggage man** - bagażowy

**takin** - (dial.) taking (take) brać, wziąć, zabrać, podjąć

**eloquently** - elokwentnie

**grumbled** - narzekać, narzekanie, pomruk, burczenie

**bloody** - zakrwawiony, krwawiący, krwawy, cholerny

**handkerchief** - chusteczkę, chusteczka do nosa, chusteczka

**trouser** - spodnie, obławić się, od spodni

**mug** - napaść, obrabować, kubek, kufel, gęba, morda, frajer

**keeper** - opiekun, strażnik, strażniczka

**sou** - grosz, mała ilość pieniędzy

**squarehead** - kwadratowa głowa

The **kidnapper** **undid** the bloody **wrappings** and looked at his **lacerated** hand. "If I don't get the hydrophoby-"

"It'll be because you was born to hang," laughed the saloon-keeper. "Here, lend me a hand before you pull your **freight**," he added.

**Dazed**, suffering **intolerable** pain from throat and tongue, with the life half **throttled** out of him, Buck attempted to face his **tormentors**. But he was **thrown down** and choked **repeatedly**, till they succeeded in filing the heavy **brass** collar from off his neck. Then the rope was removed, and he was **flung** into a cagelike **crate**.

There he lay for the remainder of the **weary** night, nursing his **wrath** and wounded pride. He could not understand what it all meant. What did they want with him, these strange men? Why were they keeping him **pent** up in this narrow crate? He did not know why, but he felt **oppressed** by the vague sense of **impending calamity**.

Several times during the night he sprang to his feet when the shed door **rattled** open, expecting to see the Judge, or the boys at least. But each time it was the **bulging** face of the saloon-keeper that peered in at him by the **sickly** light of a **tallow candle**. And each time the **joyful bark** that **trembled** in Buck's throat was twisted into a **savage growl**.

But the saloon-keeper let him alone, and in the morning four men entered and picked up the crate. More tormentors, Buck decided, for they were evil-looking creatures, **ragged** and **unkempt**; and he stormed and raged at them through the bars. They only laughed and **poked** sticks at him, which he **promptly assailed** with his teeth till he realized that that was what they wanted.

Whereupon he lay down **sullenly** and allowed the crate to be lifted into a **wagon**. Then he, and the crate in which he was imprisoned, began a passage through many hands.

Clerks in the express office took charge of him; he was **carted** about in another wagon; a truck carried him, with an **assortment** of boxes and **parcels**, upon a **ferry steamer**; he was trucked off the

**kidnapper** - porywacz  
**undid** - cofnąć, rozwiązać, rozpiąć, niweczyć, otworzyć  
**wrappings** - opakowania, (wrap) zawijać, owijać  
**lacerated** - zraniony, poranić, boleśnie zranić

**freight** - frachtować, ładować, fracht, ładunek

**dazed** - oszołomiony, oszalać  
**intolerable** - nie do zniesienia  
**throttled** - dławiony, dławić, dusić, tłumić, udusić, gardziel, gardło  
**tormentors** - oprawców, dręczyciel, dręczycielka  
**thrown down** - zrzucony  
**repeatedly** - wielokrotnie  
**brass** - mosiądz, instrument dęty blaszany, mosiężny  
**flung** - rzucony, cisnąć, podrzucać, rzucać, szaleństwo, przygoda  
**crate** - skrzynka, grat, gruchot

**weary** - zmęczony, znużony, męczący, nużyć, znużyć  
**wrath** - gniew, złość  
**pent** - zdławiony, stłumiony  
**oppressed** - gnębić, ciemnić, przygniść, przytłoczyć  
**impending** - zagrażać  
**calamity** - katastrofa, nieszczęście

**rattled** - zagrzechotał, zabrzęczeć, zastukać, grzechotka, grzechotanie  
**bulging** - wybrzuszenie, wypukłość  
**sickly** - chory, chorowity, schorowany, wątły  
**tallow candle** - łojówka, świeca łojowa  
**joyful** - radosny, wesoły  
**bark** - zaszczekać, warknąć, łódź, kora, szczeknięcie, ujadanie  
**trembled** - drżał, drżeć  
**savage** - dzikus, dziki, dziczały, barbarzyński, niecywilizowany  
**growl** - warczenie, warknięcie, burczenie, warczeć

**ragged** - (rag) nabijać się, dokuczać, szmata, gazeta, wystrzępiony  
**unkempt** - zaniedbany, rozczochrany  
**poked** - rozgrzebać, przegarnąć, wetknąć, pstryczek, strzał, cios  
**promptly** - natychmiast, bezzwłocznie, punktualnie  
**assailed** - napadać, nękać, zmierzyć się

**sullenly** - ponuro, z ponurą miną, obrażonym tonem  
**wagon** - wóz

**carted** - na wózku, przewieźć, zatańczyć, zwieźć, wóz, furmanka  
**assortment** - asortyment  
**parcels** - paczki, paczka, przesyłka, parcela