



**GREENVILLE
CLASSICAL
ACADEMY**

**Literature and Composition A
Summer Reading Assignment 2018**



Purpose of assignment: The purpose is to develop comprehension and critical reading skills while analyzing a journey story and recognizing the attributes of a literary hero. The packet material and book content will be used as the basis of our first essay.

Grading: Packet questions and chart will count as a homework grade. Upon return to school, there will also be a quiz on the entire novel as well as an essay that will count as a test grade.

Expected time for completion: Reading times will vary. Depending on which edition you purchase, the book will take about 5 hours on average. Packet work will be completed during reading and will assist in comprehension but may take about 60 - 90 minutes.

Note: The time required to complete this assignment will vary. This is only a rough estimate to help with planning. Students should keep in mind their own study habits and pace of work in budgeting time to complete this assignment.

Character List

Buck: Part Scotch shepherd, part St. Bernard; main character in the novel

Judge: Buck's original owner; gives Buck the domesticated life he thinks he loves

Perrault: French Canadian who buys Buck first; "a little weazened man who spat broken English and many strange and uncouth exclamations which Buck could not understand." (8-9)

François: Swarthy French Canadian who teams with Perrault

Curly: Good-natured Newfoundland bought by Perrault

Spitz: Treacherously friendly, underhanded (-pawed) white dog

Dave: Experienced dog that primarily eats and sleeps and just wants to be left alone

Sol-leks: The Angry One, blind in one eye, also wants to be left alone

Hal: A callow nineteen/twenty-year old with revolver and belt with many cartridges on it.

Charles: Middle-aged, light-colored man with weak eyes and moustache that covers a drooping lip

Mercedes: Charles' wife and Hal's sister

John Thornton: Owner of a camp at the base of the White River; saves Buck from being killed when Buck refuses to pull Hal's sled

Skeet: Irish Setter at John Thornton's camp who tends to Buck's injuries

Nig: Good-natured half-Bloodhound, half-deerhound at Thornton's camp

"Black" Burton: "Evil-tempered and malicious" man, attacked by Buck when Thornton is hit while trying to break up a fight



Explanation of the Hero's Journey

What is a hero?

In literature, "The hero is the character who conquers obstacles and saves the day. Typically the hero embarks on some quest, either physical or spiritual. The hero could be a knight in shining armor, a police officer or a politician who pushes for bold reforms. Specific examples include Robin Hood, Luke Skywalker and Wonder Woman. The quality that makes a character truly heroic is his willingness to put others ahead of himself".¹

What is his journey?

The Hero must go through a process in order to become a hero. The *first* step is "The Mundane World." The Hero begins in a place of safety and/or comfort which they either long to leave or are reluctant to depart from. In the *second* stage, the Hero experiences a "Call to Adventure." Someone or something tells The Hero there is something else out there. The Hero may also learn of a special role, talent, or destiny they possess. *Next*, the hero "Crosses into a New World." The Hero leaves the comforts of home behind and enters into a new world filled with both adventure and danger. He or she must go through "The Path of Trials" in order to grow and become the hero. The Hero goes on an adventure, meeting new people (friends, mentors, and enemies), learning new skills, and overcoming challenges. In the end he/she becomes "A Master of Two Worlds." Having successfully completed their adventure in the "new world," The Hero returns home a changed person. Buck is a hero and undergoes this hero's journey. While you read, you will be finding quotes from the book to prove this fact.



¹ Patrick, Josh. "List of Frequent Archetypes in Literature." EHow. Demand Media, 07 Apr. 2011. Web. 30 Apr. 2013.

Explanation of Quote Collection Sheet

It is important to look for quotes while you are reading the book. As you read, you will need to find at least 2 quotes for each of the stages of the hero's journey (10 quotes TOTAL). Use this chart to organize this information. Remember, these quotes are not just what people say; rather they are any line that helps us to understand the journey and the changes that Buck is experiencing. I have given you one example of a quote that you might have chosen while you were reading.

Explanation of Boxes	
Page #	Quote – Remember, any line that helps us to understand the journey and the changes that Buck is experiencing.
Explanation of Quote:	In this space please explain why you chose this quote

Example	
Page # 3 lines 15-18	"During the four years since...because of their insular situation."
Explanation of Quote:	Buck lived a pampered life as a pet dog in a beautiful house. He was very comfortable.

Name _____

Quote Collection Sheet

"The Mundane World"

These quotes show: What Buck is like before being stolen. (Did he want to go?)

Page #	Quote
Explanation of Quote:	
Explanation of Quote:	

"The Call to Adventure"

These quotes show: His first experiences. What does he learn? What special talents/traits does he have?

Page #	Quote
Explanation of Quote:	
Explanation of Quote:	

"Crossing into a New World"

These quotes show: What dangers does he face? How is he changing?

Page #	Quote
Explanation of Quote:	
Page #	Quote
Explanation of Quote:	

"The Path of Trials"

These quotes show: Adventures, people he meets, skills he learns, how he overcomes challenges.

Page #	Quote
Explanation of Quote:	
Page #	Quote
Explanation of Quote:	

"The Master of Two Worlds"**How he has changed by the end of the book. Is he home?**

Page #

Quote

Explanation
of Quote:

Page #

Quote

Explanation
of Quote: