



MAKING SENSE of

LITERATURE

Level 1



UNIT VOCABULARY



growl *(of a dog) make a low threatening sound*

sled *vehicle with long narrow strips of wood, metal etc, which can slide over snow*

fence *wall or barrier made of wood or wire supported by posts*

wipe *rub a surface with a cloth to clean it*

pat *strike gently with the open hand*

paw *animal's foot with the paws*

prove *show that sth is true by means of evidence*

stare *look steadily, for a long time*

suffer *feel pain, discomfort, etc *become worse*

fair *just; honest; impartial*

drag *pull along with effort and difficulty*

curve *line which is not straight and has no angles*

choice *act of choosing *right or possibility of choice*



UNIT 1

Brown Wolf

by JACK LONDON

Before You Read

Meet the Author

Jack London (1876-1916) is one of the greatest American novelists. He was born and grew up in San Francisco, California. Jack was raised by his mother Flora Wellman and his stepfather John London.

At the age of ten he was on the streets selling newspapers to support the family's limited income. Jack London left school at fourteen and worked several different jobs.

London lived a very exciting life. It was filled with adventure. London loved to travel. Before he was seventeen years old, he had visited China and Japan.

Eventually he returned to high school and graduated. At the age of nineteen Jack London was admitted to the University of California, Berkley, but he stayed there for only six months.

When gold was discovered in Alaska, London went there. In 1900, Jack London married Bess Maddern and he had two daughters with her.

He was one of the first writers to work with the movie industry; several of his novels were made into films.

London wrote more than 50 books and many short stories. London's most famous book is "*The Call of the Wild*". Like "*Brown Wolf*", it is about a dog from Alaska.

Jack London Died at age of forty on November 22, 1916.

Learning Literature



The **plot** tells the important things that happen in a story. In "*Brown Wolf*" you will meet Madge and Walt finding a lost dog. The story starts with this scene. That is the first thing that happens in the plot.

Other things take place, or happen, in the story. The last thing that happens in the story is the last thing in the plot.

UNIT 1

Brown Wolf

by JACK LONDON

Chapter 1



Track 1



Madge and Walt are married. They live in California. They live in a small house on top of a hill. This story is about them and a strange dog.

One night Madge and Walt hear a loud sound. The sound wakes them up.

“What is that?” asks Walt.

“I don’t know,” says Madge. “Let’s look outside.”

They open the door and look around.

“Do you see anything?” asks Madge.

“No,” says Walt.

Suddenly Madge sees something, “Look over there!”

On the grass they see a large, brown dog. The dog looks tired and hungry.

Walt and Madge walk toward the dog. The dog growls at them. It is not a friendly dog.

“The dog is hungry,” says Madge. “Let’s give it some bread and milk. ”

They go back to the house and get some food. They put the food on the ground. The dog does not want to eat the food because they wait there.

“Let’s go back to the house,” says Walt.

They go back to the house and look out the window.

The dog begins to eat. The dog is really hungry. It eats all the food very quickly.

“That dog eats like a wolf,” says Walt.

“It looks like a wolf, too,” says Madge. “Let’s call him Wolf.”

The next morning they feed Wolf again. This time the dog is a little more friendly. It lets them come closer.

In the afternoon their neighbor, Mrs. Johnson, visits them. She sees Wolf. She asks Madge and Walt, “Do you have a dog?”

“We don’t,” says Madge. “This dog is just a strange visitor.”

Brown Wolf*by* JACK LONDON

Mrs. Johnson is surprised. "Where does this dog come from?" she asks.

"We don't know," says Walt. "It is lost maybe."

Mrs. Johnson says, "My brother, Skiff, lives in Alaska. I visit him there every year. This dog looks like the dogs I see in Alaska. It looks like the big dogs that pull sleds there."

Madge and Walt look at each other. They are surprised. Madge says, "But how can a dog get here all the way from Alaska?"

Madge and Walt feed Wolf every day. They take long walks with him. They like to play with Wolf but Wolf still is not too friendly.

One afternoon Madge comes out of the house. She walks down the steps and looks around. She sees Walt. He has a hammer in his hand. He is fixing the fence.

"Where is Wolf" she asks.

"I don't know," Walt answers. "Maybe he is after a rabbit."

"I don't see him now," says Madge. "Here, Wolf," she calls.

They walk down the road and through the tall grass.

"There he is!" says Walt. He points ahead.

Wolf is sitting on top of a large rock. The dog is watching them.

"Good dog," shouts Walt. "Come here."

The dog opens his mouth. He looks at Madge and Walt and runs toward them. He stops about twenty feet away.

Madge and Walt continue to walk. Wolf runs into the tall grass. Soon they can not see him.

"Wolf will catch up with us later," says Madge.

Suddenly they hear something. The sound is coming from the woods. They see a man. He comes out of the woods and walks toward them.

Madge and Walt do not know the man. He is very tall, and he looks very strong. He has wide shoulders. He has long hair and a thick, black beard. He is holding his hat in his hand.

UNIT 1

Brown Wolf

by JACK LONDON

"Good afternoon," says Walt. "Today is a very warm day."

"Yes," says the man. "It's very warm. I'm not used to warm weather. I like cold weather."

Madge smiles. "It's never cold here."

"No," says the man. He takes a red handkerchief out of his pocket and wipes his face with it.

The man says, "I'm looking for my sister. Her name is Pat Johnson. She lives somewhere around here."

Madge says, "You must be her brother from Alaska."

"Yes," says the man. "My name is Skiff Miller. This visit is a surprise. My sister doesn't know I'm here."

"She lives nearby," says Walt. "Do you see that big tree over there? There's a little path near the tree. Walk up the path. Her house is the first one on the right."

"Thank you," Miller says.

The man starts to leave. Madge says, "We'd like to visit you while you're here. We'd like to hear about Alaska."

Walt says, "Maybe you can have dinner with us some day."

"Thanks again," Skiff Miller says. "But I will be here for just one day. I'm leaving tomorrow. I have important business in Alaska."

Just then Wolf runs across the grass. Miller stares at the dog. "I don't believe it," he says softly.

Skiff Miller sits down on a log. He looks at the dog. Miller shakes his head. "I don't believe it," he says again.

Wolf hears Skiff Miller's words. The dog runs to the man and looks at the man's hands. He licks them with his tongue. Miller reaches out and pats the dog's head.

Miller looks up at Madge and Walt. "I have to sit down," Miller says. "I am very surprised."

"We're surprised, too," says Walt. "Wolf isn't very friendly. But he is friendly to you."

"Is that what you call him-'Wolf'?" asks Skiff.

"Yes," says Madge. "I wonder why he's friendly to you." She thinks for a moment. Then she says, "Maybe it's because you're from Alaska. Wolf is from Alaska, too, you know."



Brown Wolf

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"Yes," says Miller. "I know."

Miller reaches out again and touches one of Wolf's paws. "The dog's paw feels soft," Miller says. "He is not pulling a sled for a long time."

"That's true," says Walt.

No one speaks for a moment. Then Madge says, "I'm surprised that Wolf lets you touch him."

Suddenly Wolf barks.

Madge and Walt are shocked. The dog barks again.

"Wolf never barks" says Madge.

Miller smiles. "He sometimes barks," he says.

Madge stares at Miller. "What do you mean?" she says.

...to be continued

UNIT 1

Brown Wolf

by JACK LONDON



True or False?

- 1) Wolf is always friendly to everyone.
- 2) Walt says that Miller can take the dog to Alaska.
- 3) Skiff Miller is from California.
- 4) The dog is noisy and always barks.

Using Vocabulary

- 1) They put some food on the _____.
- 2) In Alaska dogs pull _____.
- 3) Mrs. Johnson is their _____.
- 4) He takes a red handkerchief out of his pocket and _____ his face with it.

Checking Comprehension

- 1) Where does Madge and Walt live?

- 2) What wakes up Madge and Walt?

- 3) How much food does the dog eat?

- 4) Where does Mrs. Johnson's brother live?

- 5) How often does Madge and Walt feed Wolf?

- 6) What does Miller take out of his pocket?

Brown Wolf*by* JACK LONDON**Building Sentences**

- 1) The story is about _____.
- 2) The dog is really hungry _____.
- 3) Skiff Miller is not used to warm weather because _____.
- 4) Skiff Miller is leaving tomorrow because _____.
- 5) Wolf is friendly to everyone but _____.
- 6) Madge is surprised because Wolf _____.

Thinking & Using Literature

Here is a dialogue from the following chapter. Guess what happens and try to fill out the missing parts.

"He is my best dog," says Miller. "He is the best dog in my team of dogs."

"_____ " says Madge.

"Yes," says Miller. "I'm taking him back to Alaska."

"To Alaska?" says Walt. "To that cold, cold world? He'll suffer there."

"Yes," says Madge. "Why _____? He likes it here! He gets plenty of food. And he won't have to pull a sled through the snow."

"He doesn't mind pulling a sled," says Miller. "He's strong, you know."

"But he's happy here," says Walt. "_____?"

"Work," says Skiff Miller. "I'll give him work. He likes work. And he'll have the cold and the snow. He likes them, too. He knows that life. He is born in Alaska."
_____."

"Well, I won't let you take the dog!" Walt says suddenly. "I don't want to talk about it. The dog is not going!"

UNIT 1

Brown Wolf

by JACK LONDON

Chapter 2



Track 2

Miller looks closely at Madge. His voice sounds angry. "This is my dog. I think you can see that from the way he acts. He's my dog. His name is not 'Wolf.' His name is 'Brown.'"

"How do you know he's your dog?" Walt asks loudly.

"He is!" answers Miller.

Walt looks at Miller. "You can't prove that," says Walt.

Miller says, "The dog is mine. I guess I shall know my own dog. This dog is mine. I can prove it! Watch!"

Skiff Miller turns to the dog. "Brown!" shouts Miller.

The dog turns around and looks at Miller.

"Turn!" shouts Miller. "Turn! Get ready!"

The dog turns at once. It stares ahead and waits.

"He knows my voice, he listens to me. Turn again!" says Miller. The dog turns again.

Walt looks unhappy.

"He is my best dog," says Miller. "He is the best dog in my team of dogs."

"But you're not going to take him with you?" says Madge.

"Yes," says Miller. "I'm taking him back to Alaska."

"To Alaska?" says Walt. "To that cold, cold world? He'll suffer there."

"Yes," says Madge. "Why don't you leave him here? He likes it here! He gets plenty of food. And he won't have to pull a sled through the snow."

"He doesn't mind pulling a sled," says Miller. "He's strong, you know."

"But he's happy here," says Walt. "What can you give him in Alaska?"

"Work," says Skiff Miller. "I'll give him work. He likes work. And he'll have the cold and the snow. He likes them, too. He knows that life. He is born in Alaska. He likes Alaska and the cold weather there. He may be happy here. But he'll be happier in Alaska."

"Well, I won't let you take the dog!" Walt says suddenly. "I don't want to talk about it. The dog is not going!"

Brown Wolf

by JACK LONDON



Miller looks at Walt. "What? What's that?" says Miller. "What's that?"

"I say the dog isn't going with you. I don't believe that he is your dog. Maybe you know him

in Alaska. You can't prove that he's yours!"

Skiff Miller says nothing. Then his face becomes red. He is very angry.

Walt says, "The dog listens to you. That's true. But any dog from Alaska can obey you. Wolf is worth a lot of money. That's why you want him. But you can't prove that he's yours."

Miller stares down at Walt. Walt was much shorter than Miller. "Is that so? Well, no one can stop me from taking the dog right now."

Miller shows his fist and takes a step toward Walt. Madge steps between the two men.

"Maybe Mr. Miller is right," she says to Walt. "Wolf does seem to know him. And Wolf answers to the name of 'Brown.' Wolf is friendly to Mr. Miller right away. And Wolf barks for the first time! Why does he bark? I think I know. Wolf is happy because he knows Mr. Miller."

Walt shakes his head sadly. Then he says, "I guess you're right, Madge. Wolf isn't really 'Wolf.' His real name is 'Brown.' I guess that he is Mr. Miller's dog."

Madge turns to Skiff Miller. "Will you sell the dog to us?" she asks. "We want to buy him."

"I'm sorry," Miller says. His voice is kind. "I have a team of five dogs. Brown is the leader. He is the best dog. I like that dog a lot," he says. "I care about him. I can't sell this dog to you."

Madge suddenly says, "You say you care about the dog. But you don't!"

"What do you mean?" Skiff Miller asks.

"You say you care about the dog," Madge says. "Then let the dog choose where he wants to live. Maybe he wants to stay here in California. Maybe he likes California better than Alaska."

Skiff Miller says nothing.

"You say you care about the dog," says Madge. "Then do whatever makes him happy."

UNIT 1

Brown Wolf

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Miller thinks about it for a moment. Then he says, "Brown is a good worker. He works hard. He is never lazy. He's smart, too. He understands you when you talk to him. Look at him now. He knows that we're talking about him."

The dog is lying at Skiff Miller's feet. The dog's ears are standing straight up. The dog looks at Miller. Then he looks at Madge.

Miller thinks about this some more. Then he says to Madge, "The dog has the right to choose. I'll do whatever he wants."

Madge smiles. "I think that's fair," she says.

Skiff Miller shakes his head. Then he says, "Don't move. Stay where you are. I'll say good-bye. Then I'll walk away. If the dog wants to stay here, he can stay. But if he wants to go with me, let him go. I won't call him. I won't say a word. Don't call him either. Don't say a word to him. Let's see what he does."

"All right," says Madge.

"I'm leaving now," Skiff Miller says loudly. "Good-bye." And he walks up to Madge and Walt. He shakes hands with them. Then he begins to walk away.

The dog is lying on his side. He watches the three people. He sees them shake hands. He hears Skiff Miller say good-bye.

Wolf stands up. He watches Miller walk away. He waits for Miller to come back. But Miller keeps walking.

Wolf runs down the road. He stops in front of Miller. He tries to stand in Miller's way. Miller says nothing. He walks around the dog.

Wolf runs back to Walt. He tries to drag Walt toward Skiff Miller. But Walt does not move.

Wolf runs down the road toward Miller. Then he runs back to Walt and Madge. He runs up to Madge. She does not speak. She does not touch him.

The dog backs away. He turns around and looks at Miller. The man is still walking. He is moving further away.

Wolf runs down the road. Suddenly he stops. He raises his head. He barks. He barks again. But Skiff Miller keeps walking.



Brown Wolf

by JACK LONDON

Wolf runs back to Walt and Madge. He barks at them. They do not move.

Wolf looks back at Miller. He watches the man. The man is at the curve at the end of the road. Wolf keeps watching. Then Miller is gone. Wolf can not see him.

Wolf does not move. He is waiting for Skiff Miller to come back. Wolf lies on his side and waits. He waits and waits.

“He’s staying”, says Madge. “He is staying!!!”

Suddenly Wolf gets up. He does not look at the woman and the man. He looks at the road. Wolf tries to understand.

Then suddenly he begins to run. He runs down the road. He runs faster and faster. He does not look back. He runs straight ahead. He knows he is making his choice.



UNIT 1

Brown Wolf

by JACK LONDON



True or False?

- 1) The dog listens to Skiff Miller.
- 2) The dog doesn't like cold and the snow.
- 3) Skiff Miller wants to sell the dog.
- 4) The dog understands their words.

Using Vocabulary

- 1) This dog is mine. I can _____ it!
- 2) Miller touches one of the dog's _____.
- 3) Marge thinks the dog will _____ in Alaska.
- 4) In the end Wolf understands he is making a _____.

Checking Comprehension

- 1) Why is Miller staying for just one day?

- 2) What does Skiff Miller sit down on?

- 3) Why are Marge and Walt surprised when Wolf barks?

- 4) What is the dog's real name?

- 5) How does the dog understand that he is making a choice?

- 6) What do you think about the ending of the story? Will the dog come back?

Brown Wolf*by* JACK LONDON**Looking Back at the Story**

Below are some events that take place in "Brown Wolf." Put these events in the order they happen.

- Skiff says he wants to take the dog back to Alaska.
- Madge and Walt find a hungry dog.
- Skiff sees Wolf and says that the dog was his.
- They give the dog food and call the dog "Wolf."
- One day, a man named Skiff Miller comes to town.
- The dog chooses to go with Skiff Miller.
- Everyone agrees to let the dog choose whether to go or stay.

Discussion Questions

1) Skiff Miller says that Wolf was his dog. How do Madge and Walt know that is true?

2) Why does Skiff Miller want to take the dog back to Alaska?

3) Are you glad that the dog goes with Skiff Miller? Why, why not?

4) Why do you think Wolf goes with Skiff?

Practice Writing Literature

Now it's time to write your ending to the story. Suppose that Walt and Skiff do not agree to let Wolf choose. What do you think will happen?

UNIT VOCABULARY



warden *person in charge of a place *head of a prison*

clerk *person employed in an office*

engaged *having agreed to marry*

proud *feeling or showing self respect*

knob *round handle or control button*

railing *fence made of rails*

frightened *afraid; scared*

sleeve *part of a garment covering all or part of the arm*

arrest *seize in the name of the law*