

# 10. A Tiger in the House

## Worksheet 1

### COMPREHENSION

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 vineclad servants' cottages, an endless and orderly array of outhouses, long grape arbors, green pastures, orchards, and berry patches. 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 huge demesne Buck ruled. Here, he was born, and here he had lived 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 went hunting with the Judge's sons; he escorted Mollie and Alice, the Judge's daughter 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.

[From: *The Call of the Wild*—by Jack London]

#### **A. Read the above passage and answer the questions.**

1. Who was Buck and where did he live?
2. Who were Toots and Ysabel?
3. How was Judge Miller's house approached?

4. How did Buck look after Judge Miller's daughters?
5. How did he care for the Judge's grandsons?
6. Who were Buck's parents?

**B. Fill in the blanks with suitable words from the passage.**

1. At the \_\_\_\_\_ things were on an even more \_\_\_\_\_ scale.
2. There was the \_\_\_\_\_ plant for the \_\_\_\_\_ well.
3. They came and went, resided in the \_\_\_\_\_ kennels, or lived \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the house.
4. The whole \_\_\_\_\_ was his.
5. Among the terriers, he \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and Toots and Ysabel he \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ .

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# Worksheet 2

## GRAMMAR

### **A. Underline the phrases and clauses given below and write P or C.**

1. Why were there so many people who had nothing to do? [ ]
2. Our neighbours had a car in a bad condition. [ ]
3. The store that Mrs Gupta shops at is crowded. [ ]
4. I am going to see the doctor that Sushmita told me about. [ ]
5. The man in the burning building was alive and well. [ ]

### **B. State if the following are noun, adjective or adverb clauses.**

1. The lady, who is our new neighbour, is very polite.
2. The villager on the camel stopped where the pool had formed.
3. The car in which we waited belonged to Mr Sharma.

### **C. State if the following are simple, compound or complex sentences.**

1. My uncle received the guests.
2. The boy who was blind won the music competition.
3. There was very heavy rain, so, the schools were closed.

# Worksheet 3

## VOCABULARY AND WRITING

**A. Each group of words given below derives from a Latin or Greek root which is given in the Help Box with its meaning in brackets. Select the root of each set of words and fill in the blanks.**

demos (G. the people)    magnus (L. great)    techne (G. an art)  
verbum (L. a word)    logos (G. a word)    aqua (L. water)

Root	(a)	(b)
1. _____	aquarium	aquatic
2. _____	major	magnify
3. _____	proverb	verbal
4. _____	dialogue	catalogue
5. _____	architect	technical
6. _____	democracy	epidemic

**B. Use the following foreign words/phrases in sentences of your own.**

1. bona fide    2. lingua franca    3. resume    4. extempore    5. ad hoc

**C. Write a paragraph about your pet dog or cat (an imaginary pet if you have none) in about 150 words.**

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