

## 2. A Tiger in the House

WORKSHEET

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### COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage and answer the questions given below.

Buck lived at a bog 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 verandah 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 arbours, 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 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 noses 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 when 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 completely 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.

- 'The Call of the Wild' by Jack London

**A** Answer the following questions.

1. Who was Buck and where did he live?

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2. Who were Toots and Ysabel?

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3. How was Judge Miller's house approached?

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4. How did Buck look after Judge Miller's daughters?

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5. How did he care for the Judge's grandsons?

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6. Who were Buck's parents?

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

1. At the \_\_\_\_\_ things were on an even more \_\_\_\_\_ scale.

2. There was a \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

## GRAMMAR

**A** Change the following adjectives and verbs into nouns.

- |             |       |            |       |
|-------------|-------|------------|-------|
| 1. Brave    | _____ | 2. Honest  | _____ |
| 3. Exist    | _____ | 4. Bake    | _____ |
| 5. Curious  | _____ | 6. Advise  | _____ |
| 7. Bless    | _____ | 8. Long    | _____ |
| 9. Truthful | _____ | 10. Inform | _____ |

**B** In the following sentence, underline the nouns and state whether they are the subject, direct object, indirect object or object of a preposition.

Mary gave a player to Timothy so that he could enjoy listening to music.

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**C** State the genders of the following nouns.

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|-------------------|-------|----------|-------|
| 1. Aunt           | _____ | 2. King  | _____ |
| 3. Prime Minister | _____ | 4. Chair | _____ |
| 5. Doctor         | _____ | 6. Cow   | _____ |
| 7. Lamp           | _____ | 8. Hen   | _____ |
| 9. Umpire         | _____ | 10. Monk | _____ |

**D** Change the following nouns into singular or plural.

- |           |                  |
|-----------|------------------|
| 1. Wolf   | 2. Sister-in-law |
| 3. Sheep  | 4. Mice          |
| 5. Teeth  | 6. Child         |
| 7. Ox     | 8. Kites         |
| 9. Tomato | 10. Spectacles   |

## VOCABULARY AND WRITING

**A** Each group of words is derived from a Latin or Greek root which is given in the Help Box with its meaning in brackets. Select the correct root of each group.

Demos [G. The people]	Magnus [L. Great]	Techne [G. An art]
Verbum [L. A word]	Logos [G. A word]	Aqua [L. Water]

- |          | (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 in sentences of your own.

- Bona fide \_\_\_\_\_
- Lingua franca \_\_\_\_\_
- Resume \_\_\_\_\_
- Extempore \_\_\_\_\_
- Ad hoc \_\_\_\_\_

**C** Write a paragraph about your pet cat or dog [an imaginary one if you don't have a pet] in about 150 words.

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