

May 2019

Dear Literature and Composition Student,

Congratulations on being selected to be a student in next year's eighth grade Literature and Composition class. It is both an honor and a responsibility to be in this class. It will be a challenging class but also a stimulating one marked by classroom discussion of great literature, expansion of your vocabulary, and daily work (sentence diagramming) to improve your grammar and writing skills.

Your summer project will show me that you have the necessary skills and knowledge to be successful in Literature and Composition as an eighth grader during the 2019-2020 school year. Here is your assignment:

1. Read *Call of the Wild* by Jack London and be prepared to take an exam on the book when you return to school in mid-August.
2. The exam will include matching, multiple choice, vocabulary (*I have attached the vocabulary sheets for each section of the novel*) and short answer questions. In addition, be prepared to discuss this novel; it will be our first literature unit of the year.
3. The attached vocabulary pages are due on the first day of class in August.
4. The second part of the assignment involves **reading a classic** from the following list. Be prepared to write a literary analysis (*format will be provided during the first week of school*) on the novel when you return to school in the fall.
  - a. *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson
  - b. *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott
  - c. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain
  - d. *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck
  - e. *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens
  - f. *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
  - g. *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
  - h. *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
  - i. *Dracula* by Bram Stoker

Good luck and I look forward to meeting you and being your Literature and Composition teacher beginning in August. If you have any questions or comments over the summer regarding your assignment, please feel free to e-mail me.

Mrs. Kolkebeck  
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*"There is no surer foundation for a beautiful friendship than a mutual taste in literature."— P.G. WodehouseIncoming*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

**VOCABULARY - The Call of the Wild (section I)**

**Part I:** Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues. Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

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

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Among the terriers he stalked imperiously, and Toots and Ysabel he utterly ignored, for he was king-

\_\_\_\_\_

3. 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.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. ...his tongue lolling out of his mouth and his great chest panting futilely.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. They only laughed and poked sticks at him, which he promptly assailed with his teeth.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. In his anger he had met the first advances of the express messengers with growls, and they had retaliated by teasing him.

\_\_\_\_\_

7. The club was a revelation. It was his introduction to the reign of primitive law.

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Perrault was a French-Canadian, and swarthy, but Francois was a French-Canadian half breed, and twice as swarthy.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Part II:** Determining the Meaning - Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions. If there are words for which you cannot figure out the definition by contextual clues and by process of elimination, look them up in a dictionary.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. realm

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. imperiously

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. deft

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. futilely

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. assailed

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. retaliated

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. revelation

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. swarthy

A. attacked, assaulted

B. dark complexion

C. to take revenge, reprisal

D. astonishing disclosure

E. a region

F. apt, clever

G. domineering, arrogant

H. serving no useful purpose

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

**VOCABULARY - The Call of the Wild (section II-IV)**

**Part I:** Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words above appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. He had been suddenly jerked from the heart of civilization and flung into the heart of things primordial.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. It is true, it was a vicarious experience, else he would not have lived to profit by it.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Billie wagged his tail appeasingly, turned to run when he saw that appeasement was of no avail.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. The day had been long and arduous, and he slept soundly and comfortably.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. His most conspicuous trait was an ability to scent the wind and forecast it ... in advance.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Its wild water defied the frost.

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Nothing daunted him. It was because nothing daunted him that he had been chosen for government courier.

\_\_\_\_\_

8. With the covert mutiny of Buck, a general insubordination sprang up and increased.

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Then three or four Western bad men aspired to clean out the town.

\_\_\_\_\_

10. With the last remnant of his strength he managed to stagger along behind till the train made another stop.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Part II:** Determining the Meaning - Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions. If there are words for which you cannot figure out the definition by contextual clues and by process of elimination, look them up in a dictionary.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. primordial

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. vicarious

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. appease

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. arduous

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. conspicuous

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. defied

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. daunted

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. covert

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. aspired

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. remnant

A. difficult, laborious

B. a scrap, fragment, remaining

C. to aim at high things

D. original, earliest formed

E. secret, private

F. challenged, provoked to combat

G. experienced through someone else

H. clearly in view, distinguishable

I. to pacify, to tranquilize

J. discouraged, intimidated

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

**VOCABULARY - The Call of the Wild (section V-VI)**

**Parts I:** Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words above appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. It advertised his callowness - a callowness sheer and unutterable.

---

2. Buck watched them apprehensively as they proceeded to take down the tent.

---

3. Mercedes looked at them imploringly, untold repugnance at sight of pain written in her pretty face.

---

4. Mercedes looked at them imploringly, untold repugnance at sight of pain written in her pretty face.

---

5. The outfit, though cut in half, was still a formidable bulk.

---

6. The outside dogs, whose digestion had not been trained by chronic famine to make the most of little, had voracious appetites.

---

7. Mercedes, who disburdened herself of copious opinions upon that topic.

---

8. She wept and importuned Heaven with a recital of their brutality.

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**Part II:** Determining the Meaning - Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions. If there are words for which you cannot figure out the definition by contextual clues and by process of elimination, look them up in a dictionary.

- |                         |                                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. _____ callowness     | A. difficult to deal with        |
| 2. _____ apprehensively | B. ravenous                      |
| 3. _____ imploringly    | C. aversion, dislike, reluctance |
| 4. _____ repugnance     | D. beseech, pray for earnestly   |
| 5. _____ formidable     | E. to urge repeatedly            |
| 6. _____ voracious      | F. fearfully, suspiciously       |
| 7. _____ copious        | G. immature, unsophisticated     |
| 8. _____ importuned     | H. abundant                      |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

**VOCABULARY** - The Call of the Wild (section VII)

**Part I:** Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words above appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. His transient masters since he had come into the Northland had bred in him a fear that no master could be permanent.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. A "miner's meeting" called on the spot, decided that the dog had sufficient provocation and Buck was discharged.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. ...being careful that it should neither strangle him nor impede his swimming...

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Buck performed another exploit not so heroic, perhaps, but one that put his name many notches higher on the totem-pole of Alaskan fame.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Sometimes he pursued the call into the forest, looking for it as though it were a tangible thing.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Even so, it was a hard fight, and it aroused the last latent remnants of Buck's ferocity.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Part II:** Determining the Meaning - Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions. If there are words for which you cannot figure out the definition by contextual clues and by process of elimination, look them up in a dictionary.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ transient
2. \_\_\_\_\_ provocation
3. \_\_\_\_\_ impede
4. \_\_\_\_\_ exploit
5. \_\_\_\_\_ tangible
6. \_\_\_\_\_ latent

- A. heroic act, deed of renown
- B. something that can be touched, actual
- C. under the surface, hidden
- D. fleeting, momentary
- E. something that stimulates anger
- F. to hamper, to obstruct

