

The Call of the Wild - Essay Topics

In follow-up to the novel, *The Call of the Wild*, we will be writing a literary analysis essay. I have some suggested essay topics below. If you have a different topic that you would like to explore, just run it by me first.

For homework, select a topic, and do some brainstorming. Since you will need to support your essay with quotes from the novel, you may also begin selecting passages that are relevant to your essay topic. We will begin the prewriting and drafting next week.

Suggested Essay Topics:

1. Discuss Mercedes, Hal, and Charles. What role do they play in the novel? How do they function as embodiments of the worst side of civilization?
2. What is "atavism"? What role does it play in Buck's development into a wild animal?
3. To what extent does London anthropomorphize Buck—that is, present him like a human being? To what extent is he emphatically an animal?
4. Compare the roles of John Thornton and Judge Miller. Who, from the novel's point of view, is the better master? Defend your answer.
5. What is the "call of the wild"? How does it affect Buck's behavior throughout the novel?
6. How does the novel present the dog-human relationship? Consider the different ways throughout the novel.