

纯英文名著分级阅读丛书

[美] 杰克·伦敦 / 著



2500 - 3000 单词

— THE —
CALL OF
THE WILD

野性的呼唤

中国书籍出版社

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编辑的话

“纯英文名著分级阅读丛书”是一套精选的适合中学生阅读的世界经典名著，语言地道流畅，简约优美。为了准确划分出单词量，我们邀请了38位北京的在校中学生，请他们阅读本丛书。每册图书分别由3~4位同学阅读，最后综合这些同学划出的生词，加以注释，从而极大地方便了读者阅读本丛书。这样完全从实践中来，根据英文单词量的分级，给相应英语水平的读者提供流利阅读纯英文的范本，具有非常强的实用性、针对性。

在此，我们对下列同学为本丛书提供的帮助表示感谢。他们是：

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1. Into the Primitive

Old longings **nomadic**^① leap,

Chafing^② at custom's chain;

Again from its **brumal**^③ sleep

wakens the **ferine**^④ **strain**^⑤.

Buck did not read the newspapers, or he would have known that trouble was brewing, not alone for himself, but for every tidewater dog, strong of muscle and with warm, long hair, from Puget Sound to San Diego. Because men, groping in the Arctic darkness, had found a yellow metal, and because steamship and transportation companies were booming the find, thousands of men were rushing into the Northland. These men wanted dogs, and the

① *nomadic adj.* 游牧的;流浪的

② *chafe at.* 生……气;因……烦躁

③ *brumal adj.* 冬天的

④ *ferine adj.* 野生的

⑤ *strain n.* 气质

dogs they wanted were heavy dogs, with strong muscles by which to toil, and furry coats to protect them from the frost.

2 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**^① could be caught of the wide, cool **veranda**^② that ran around its four sides. The house was approached by graveled 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**^③ of outhouses, long grape arbors, green pasture, **orchards**^④, 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**^⑤ and kept cool in the hot afternoon.

And over this great demesne Buck ruled. Here he was born, and here he had lived the four years of his life. It was true, there

① glimpse *n.* 一瞥

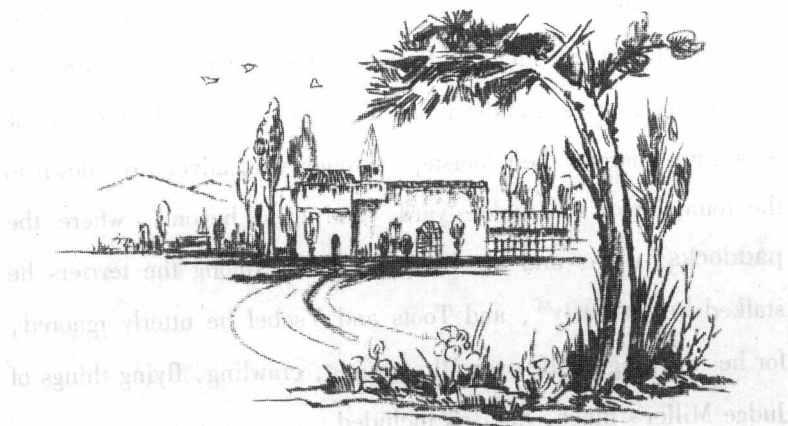
② veranda *n.* 走廊

③ array *n.* 排列

④ orchard *n.* 果园

⑤ plunge *n.* 跳入

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^① kennels^②, 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^③, a score of them at least, who yelped^④ fearful promises at Toots and Ysabel looking out of the windows at them and protected by a legion^⑤ of housemaids armed with brooms and mops.

① populous *adj.* 人口稠密的

② kennel *n.* 狗窝

③ fox terrier 狐种狗

④ yelp *vi.* (狗)吠

⑤ legion *n.* 众多,大批

But Buck was neither house dog nor kennel dog. The whole realm was his. He plunged into the swimming tank or went hunting with the Judge's sons; he escorted^① Mollie and Alice, the Judge's daughters, on long twilight or early morning rambles^②; 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^③ were, and the berry patches. Among the terriers he stalked imperiously^④, 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. Nevertheless, one hundred and forty pounds, to which was added the dignity that comes of good living and universal respect, enabled him to carry himself in right royal fashion. During the four

① escort *vt.* 护送, 陪同

② ramble *n.* 漫游

③ paddock *n.* (马厩或宅房的)小牧场, 围场

④ imperiously *adv.* 妄自尊大地



years since his **puppyhood**^① he had lived the life of a sated aristocrat; he had a fine pride in himself, was even a **trifle**^② **egotistical**^③, as country gentlemen sometimes become because of their insular situation.

But he had saved himself by not becoming a mere pampered house dog. Hunting and kindred outdoor delights had kept down the fat and hardened his muscles; and to him, as to the coldtubbing races, the love of water had been a **tonic**^④ and a health preserver.

And this was the manner of dog Buck in the fall of 1897, when the Klondike strike dragged men from all the world into the frozen North. But Buck did not read the newspapers, and he did not know that Manuel, one of the gardener's helpers, was an undesirable acquaintance. Manuel had one besetting sin. He loved to play Chinese lottery. Also in his **gambling**^⑤, he had one besetting weakness—faith in a system; and this made his damnation certain. For to play a system requires money, while the wages of a gardener's helper do not lap over the needs of a wife and

① puppyhood *n.* 年幼阶段

② a trifle 稍微

③ egotistical *adj.* 自我为中心的

④ tonic *n.* 补药

⑤ gambling *n.* 赌博

numerous progeny.

The Judge was at a meeting of the Raisin Growers' Association, and the boys were busy organizing an athletic club, on the memorable night of Manuel's treachery. No one saw him and Buck go off through the orchard on what Buck imagined was merely a stroll. And with the exception of a solitary man, no one saw them arrive at the little flag station known as College Park. This man talked with Manuel, and money **chinked**^① between them.

“You might wrap up the goods before you deliver them,” the stranger said **gruffly**^②, and Manuel doubled a piece of stout rope around Buck's neck under the collar.

“Twist it, and you'll choke him plenty,” said Manuel, and the stranger **grunted**^③ a ready affirmative.

Buck had accepted the rope with quiet dignity. To be sure, it was an unwonted performance; but he had learned to trust in men he knew, and to give them credit for a wisdom that outreached his own. But when the ends of the rope were placed in the stranger's hands, he growled **menacingly**^④. He had merely intimated his displeasure, in his pride believing that to intimate was to

① *chink vt.* 使……叮当响

② *gruffly adv.* 低沉地

③ *grunt vt.* 咕哝着说出

④ *menacingly adv.* 威胁地

command. But to his surprise the rope tightened around his neck, shutting off his breath. In quick rage he sprang at the man, who met him halfway, **grappled**^① him close by the throat, and with a deft twist threw him over on his back. Then the rope tightened mercilessly, while Buck struggled in a fury, his tongue lolling out of his mouth and his great chest panting **futilely**^②. Never in all his life had he been so **vilely**^③ treated, and never in all his life had he been so angry. But his strength **ebbed**^④, his eyes glazed, and he knew nothing when the train was flagged and the two men threw him into the baggage car.

The next he knew, he was dimly aware that his tongue was hurting and that he was being jolted along in some kind of a conveyance. The hoarse shriek of a **locomotive**^⑤ whistling a crossing told him where he was. He had traveled too often with the Judge not to know the sensation of riding in a baggage car. He opened his eyes, and into them came the **unbridled**^⑥ anger of a kidnaped king. The man sprang for his throat, but Buck was too quick for him. His jaws closed on the hand, nor did they relax till

① grapple *vt.* 抓牢

② futilely *adv.* 无益地

③ vilely *adv.* 卑鄙地

④ ebb *vi.* 落

⑤ locomotive *n.* 机车

⑥ unbridled *adj.* 无辔头的

his senses were choked out of him once more.

“Yep, has fits,” the man said, hiding his mangled hand from the **baggagemen**^①, who had been attracted by the sounds of struggle.

“I’m taking him up for the boss to Frisco. A crack dog doctor there thinks that he can cure him.”

Concerning that night’s ride, the man spoke most eloquently for himself, in a little shed back of a saloon on the San Francisco waterfront.

“All I get is fifty for it,” he grumbled, “and I wouldn’t do it over for a thousand, cold cash.”

His hand was wrapped in a bloody handkerchief, and the right trouser leg was **ripped**^② from knee to ankle.

“How much did the other mug get?” the saloonkeeper demanded.

“A hundred,” was the reply. “Wouldn’t take a sou less, so help me.”

“That makes a hundred and fifty,” the saloonkeeper calculated, “and he’s worth it, or I’m a squarehead.”

The kidnaper undid the bloody wrappings and looked at his

① **baggage**man *n.* 行李搬运工

② **rip** *vt.* 撕破

lacerated^① hand. “If I don’t get the hydrophoby^②—”

“It’ll be because you was born to hang,” laughed the saloonkeeper.

“Here, lend me a hand before you pull your freight,” he added.

Dazed, suffering intolerable pain from throat and tongue, with the life half throttled^③ out of him, Buck attempted to face his tormentors. But he was thrown down and choked repeatedly, till they succeeded in filing the heavy brass collar from off his neck. Then the rope was removed, and he was flung into a cagelike crate.

There he lay for the remainder of the weary night, nursing his wrath and wounded pride. He could not understand what it all meant. What did they want with him, these strange men? Why were they keeping him pent up in this narrow crate? He did not know why, but he felt oppressed by the vague sense of impending calamity^④. Several times during the night he sprang to his feet when the shed door rattled^⑤ open, expecting to see the Judge, or

① lacerated *adj.* 撕裂了的

② hydrophoby *n.* 狂犬病

③ throttle *vt.* 勒死

④ calamity *n.* 灾难

⑤ rattled *vi.* 发出咯咯声

the boys at least. But each time it was the bulging face of the saloonkeeper that peered in at him by the sickly light of a tallow candle. And each time the joyful bark that trembled in Buck's throat was twisted into a savage growl.

But the saloonkeeper let him alone, and in the morning four men entered and picked up the crate. More tormentors, Buck decided, for they were evil-looking creatures, ragged and unkempt; and he stormed and raged at them through the bars. They only laughed and poked sticks at him, which he promptly^① assailed^② with his teeth till he realized that that was what they wanted. Whereupon^③ he lay down sullenly and allowed the crate to be lifted into a wagon. Then he, and the crate in which he was imprisoned, began a passage through many hands. Clerks in the express office took charge of him; he was carted about in another wagon; a truck carried him, with an assortment of boxes and parcels, upon a ferry steamer; he was trucked off the steamer into a great railway depot, and finally he was deposited in an express car.

For two days and nights this express car was dragged along at

① promptly *adv.* 敏捷地

② assail *vt.* 攻击

③ whereupon *conj.* 于是

the tail of **shrieking**^① locomotives; and for two days and nights Buck neither ate nor drank. In his anger he had met the first advances of the express messengers with growls, and they had retaliated by **teasing**^② him. When he flung himself against the bars, quivering and frothing, they laughed at him and **taunted**^③ him. They growled and barked like detestable dogs, mewed, and flapped their arms and crowed. It was all very silly, he knew; but therefore the more outrage to his dignity, and his anger **waxed**^④ and waxed. He did not mind the hunger so much, but the lack of water caused him severe suffering and fanned his wrath to fever pitch. For that matter, high-strung and finely sensitive, the ill treatment had flung him into a fever, which was fed by the inflammation of his parched and swollen throat and tongue.

He was glad for one thing: the rope was off his neck. That had given them an unfair advantage; but now that it was off, he would show them. They would never get another rope around his neck. Upon that he was resolved. For two days and nights he neither ate nor drank, and during those two days and nights of

① shriek *vi.* 尖叫

② tease *vt.* 戏弄

③ taunt *vt.* 嘲弄

④ wax *vi.* 变大