

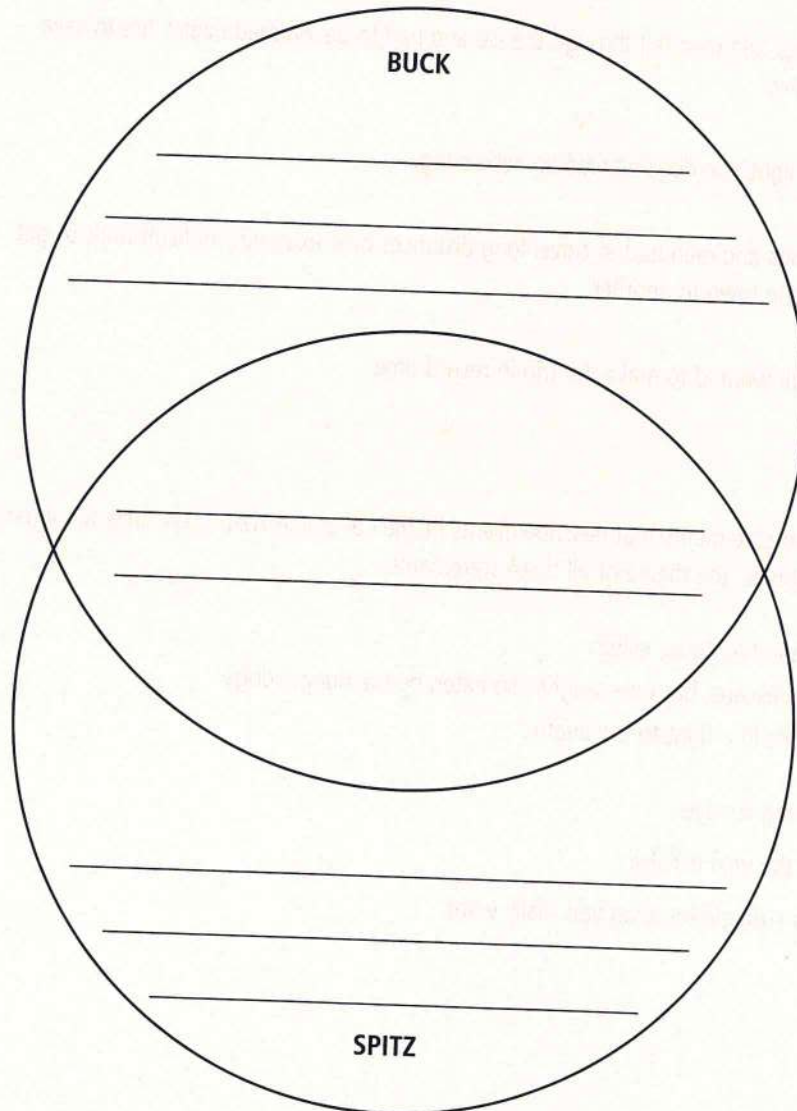
from **THE CALL OF THE WILD** (pages 374–393)

## Compare and Contrast

When you look for ways two characters are alike, you **compare** them. When you look for ways two characters are different, you **contrast** them.

In this box are details about the dogs in *The Call of the Wild*. If a detail describes Buck only, write it in the top circle below. If the detail describes Spitz only, write it in the lower circle. If the detail describes both Buck and Spitz, write it in the space where the two circles overlap.

is the lead dog	wants to be the leader	loves to work
a fighter with imagination	a fighter with experience	always ready to fight
tries to discipline the other dogs	tries to protect the other dogs	



from **THE CALL OF THE WILD** (pages 374–393)

## Theme

The **theme** of a piece of literature is the writer’s message about life or human nature. There must be evidence in a piece of literature to back up a reader’s choice of theme.

A. One possible theme in *The Call of the Wild* is “Life in the wild is a struggle.” Put an X before each event that supports, or backs up, this theme.

- 1. Perrault and François had to fight off wild dogs to save their food.
- 2. The team had to travel in temperatures that dipped to  $-50^{\circ}\text{F}$ .
- 3. Perrault was a dependable government courier.
- 4. The dogs and men fell through the ice and had to be warmed near a fire to save their lives.
- 5. Every night, the dogs howled an eerie song.
- 6. The dogs and men had to travel long distances over extremely difficult trails to get from one town to another.
- 7. Perrault wanted to make the trip in record time.

B. Read the following statements that describe events in *The Call of the Wild*. Then circle the letter of the sentence that identifies the theme of all three statements.

Dolly went mad and had to be killed.

The rabbit tried to escape, but was caught and eaten by the hungry dogs.

Buck defeated Spitz in a fight to the death.

- a. Only the strong survive.
- b. Traveling in the wild is risky.
- c. You have to struggle for what you really want.

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## Syllabication

**Syllables** are word parts with one vowel sound each. These examples show some of the correct ways to divide words into syllables:

*South•land* (between two words of a compound)

*mad•ness* (between a word and its prefix or suffix)

*quar•ter* (between two consonants, with vowels both before and after)

*ba•con* (before a single consonant if the preceding vowel is long)

*cov•er* (after a single consonant if the preceding vowel is short)

A. Circle the letter of the word that is divided correctly.

1. a. husk-ies  
b. hus-kies

3. e. win-ning  
f. winn-ing

5. i. ho-nor  
j. hon-or

2. c. na-tive  
d. nat-ive

4. g. moonr-ise  
h. moon-rise

6. k. un-chew-able  
j. un-chewable

B. Using the guidelines above, divide the following words into syllables. Write the syllables on the lines.

- |             |   |       |   |       |
|-------------|---|-------|---|-------|
| 1. harness  | = | _____ | + | _____ |
| 2. shortcut | = | _____ | + | _____ |
| 3. fearless | = | _____ | + | _____ |
| 4. travel   | = | _____ | + | _____ |
| 5. moment   | = | _____ | + | _____ |
| 6. dozen    | = | _____ | + | _____ |
| 7. fifty    | = | _____ | + | _____ |
| 8. unfreeze | = | _____ | + | _____ |
| 9. lazy     | = | _____ | + | _____ |

C. Select one syllable from each column and combine the three word parts to make a single three-syllable word. Write the word on the line. Repeat the action two more times, and write two more three-syllable words.

re	geth	ous	_____
to	ger	ber	_____
dan	mem	er	_____

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## Words to Know

realm   primitive   dominance   edible   eerie

A. Match each word with the correct definition on the right. Write the letter of the correct definition on the line in front of each word.

- |                  |                                 |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| ___ 1. primitive | a. strange or mysterious        |
| ___ 2. edible    | b. kingdom                      |
| ___ 3. eerie     | c. from an earlier, wilder time |
| ___ 4. realm     | d. good or safe to eat          |
| ___ 5. dominance | e. control or power             |

B. Circle the letter of the word or phrase that best answers each question.

1. On a dark night, which of the following would be **eerie**?

- a. a pair of jeans      b. a mailbox      c. a loud scream

2. Which of the following is **edible**?

- a. shoes      b. meat      c. steel

3. What is another word for **realm**?

- a. kingdom      b. crown      c. soldier

4. Which word is an antonym (or opposite) of **primitive**?

- a. old      b. alive      c. modern

5. In order to have **dominance**, which of the following is the most necessary?

- a. leadership      b. good clothes      c. math skills

### Writing Activity

Suppose you are a newspaper reporter covering the story of a dogsled team. Write a short article describing two of the dogs and their personalities. Use at least two of the **Words to Know**.