

The Call of the Wild

Jack London

What does Curly's death teach Buck that no command or explanation could have taught him?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Curly goes down
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Chapter II · The Law of Club and Fang
START	He had never seen dogs fight as these wolfish creatures fought, and his first experience taught him an unforgettable lesson.
END	So that was the way. No fair play. Once down, that was the end of you. Well, he would see to it that he never went down.
PASSAGE ID	sec-cow-02

THE MOVE

Infer a rule from one brutal example

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Curly's death teaches Buck a rule through shock: once a dog goes down, the pack finishes the attack. No one has to explain the law because Buck watches the entire sequence and immediately converts one event into a survival principle.

MARK

Number the actions in the attack from Curly's fall to the pack's response. Underline Buck's conclusion about what the event means. Write RULE beside the sentence he will carry forward.

NOTICE

- What single moment changes the fight from contest to execution?
- How does Buck move from observing Curly's fate to predicting what must never happen to him?
- Why is one vivid example more powerful here than a spoken warning would have been?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What does Curly's death teach Buck that no command or explanation could have taught him? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: What does Curly's death teach Buck that no command or explanation could have taught him? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	Curly's death teaches Buck a survival rule instantly: once a dog goes down, the pack closes in and the fight is effectively over. The lesson matters because Buck converts one witnessed event into a rule he will use later.
EVIDENCE	Use the sequence from Curly's fall to the pack attack and Buck's explicit conclusion about what must never happen to him.
WATCH FOR	Do not retell the attack without naming the rule Buck infers from it.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

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What does Curly's death teach Buck that no command or explanation could have taught him?

START ANCHOR	He had never seen dogs fight as these wolfish creatures fought, and his first experience taught him an unforgettable lesson.
END ANCHOR	So that was the way. No fair play. Once down, that was the end of you. Well, he would see to it that he never went down.

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. **MARK** - Number the actions in the attack from Curly's fall to the pack's response. Underline Buck's conclusion about what the event means. Write **RULE** beside the sentence he will carry forward.
2. **NOTICE** - What single moment changes the fight from contest to execution? How does Buck move from observing Curly's fate to predicting what must never happen to him? Why is one vivid example more powerful here than a spoken warning would have been?
3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: What does Curly's death teach Buck that no command or explanation could have taught him?
4. **WRITE** - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.