

The Call of the Wild

Jack London

What makes Buck's love for Thornton different from every earlier human relationship in his life?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Thornton creates a new kind of bond
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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 VI · For the Love of a Man
START	Love, genuine passionate love, was his for the first time.
END	where he would stand and listen to the sound of his master's breathing.
PASSAGE ID	sec-cow-03

THE MOVE

Compare relationships to define a new category of love

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Buck has belonged to humans before, but Thornton is the first person Buck loves with an intensity that exceeds habit, ownership, or usefulness. London proves the distinction through Buck's behavior—watching, touching, waiting, and listening—not by relying on the word 'love' alone.

MARK

Underline the places where Buck's behavior toward Thornton differs from ordinary obedience. Circle the details involving closeness, watching, or physical contact. Star the action that seems least explainable as training or dependence.

NOTICE

- What did earlier human relationships ask Buck to do?
- What does Buck choose to do around Thornton even when no command is given?
- How does behavior make 'genuine passionate love' more convincing than the label by itself?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What makes Buck's love for Thornton different from every earlier human relationship in his life? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: What makes Buck's love for Thornton different from every earlier human relationship in his life? 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	Thornton's relationship with Buck differs because Buck's attachment is voluntary, intense, and not reducible to ownership, obedience, or dependence. Buck watches, touches, follows, and seeks closeness even when no command or reward is involved.
EVIDENCE	Compare Buck's behavior toward Thornton with earlier human relationships and identify at least one action that cannot be explained as training alone.
WATCH FOR	Do not prove love by quoting the narrator's word 'love' alone. Use Buck's behavior to define what kind of love this is.
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.

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END ANCHOR	where he would stand and listen to the sound of his master's breathing.

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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 - Underline the places where Buck’s behavior toward Thornton differs from ordinary obedience. Circle the details involving closeness, watching, or physical contact. Star the action that seems least explainable as training or dependence.
2. NOTICE - What did earlier human relationships ask Buck to do? What does Buck choose to do around Thornton even when no command is given? How does behavior make 'genuine passionate love' more convincing than the label by itself?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: What makes Buck's love for Thornton different from every earlier human relationship in his life?
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.