

Bak Middle School of the Arts Mandatory Summer Reading Assignment

Grade 8 Summer 2025



Before the first day of school on August 11, 2025, all incoming 8th grade students must read the novel ***Call of the Wild*** by Jack London, and complete the assignment below. We will discuss the novel the first week of school and complete comprehension activities in class.

Book Preview: *Call of the Wild* is an exciting adventure story that follows the trials and tribulations of Buck, a powerful dog stolen from his comfortable life in Southern California and forced to survive the harsh conditions and cruel treatment of the far north as a sled dog during the gold rush in the Yukon Territory. Buck is transformed from housedog to "the dominant primordial beast" by the law of club and fang.

Activity Directions:

The Yukon Gold Rush of 1896-1899 was an exciting and tumultuous time for the sparsely populated far north of Canada. Imagine you're part of a small Yukon town's committee to attract miners to your area. Create a trifold brochure encouraging potential settlers to come explore the far north.

- printed or neatly written on 8.5" x 11" paper, folded long-ways in thirds;
- colorful, neat, correct mechanics;
- inside left panel--Welcome statement, convince readers why they should visit the Yukon; picture or illustration optional;
- inside center panel--describe the geography of the area, special features, cool things to see and do; include a map of the area; a picture or illustration optional;
- inside right panel--split in two, one part about the weather and the seasons and what to expect; the second half about the flora and fauna of the area; include illustration or picture;
- outside left panel--describe traveling in the Yukon and things to do here; illustration or picture;
- outside center panel--entice potential visitors with a description of the area's most important selling point--gold mining, how it's done, how to stake your claim;
- outside right panel--title of your brochure: big welcome title, a great picture or illustration, a catchy slogan, and your name.



Rubric:

| | 25 pts | 20 pts | 15 pts | 10 pts |
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| Organization & Structure | The brochure is well-organized and structured, with clear sections and logical flow. | The brochure is generally well-organized, but some sections may lack coherence or flow. | The brochure may lack clear organization or sections may be poorly defined. | The brochure lacks clear organization, making it difficult to follow or understand. |
| Content Quality | The content is comprehensive, engaging, and accurately portrays the attractions of the Yukon. | The content is informative but may lack depth or detail in certain areas. | The content provides basic information but lacks depth or engagement. | The content is incomplete, inaccurate, or fails to effectively convey the attractions of the Yukon. |
| Visual Appeal | The brochure is colorful, neatly designed, and utilizes high-quality graphics or illustrations effectively. | The brochure is visually appealing, but some graphics or illustrations could be improved or better integrated. | The brochure may lack appeal or use of graphics/illustrations may be limited or ineffective. | The brochure lacks visual appeal, with minimal use of graphics or illustrations. |
| Mechanics | Correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation are consistently maintained throughout the brochure. | Minor errors in spelling, grammar, or punctuation may be present but do not significantly detract from readability. | Some noticeable errors in spelling, grammar, or punctuation may be present, impeding readability. | Numerous errors in spelling, grammar, or punctuation significantly detract from readability. |

This project provides an opportunity to explore the setting of this classic novel and build relevant background knowledge that will help students to better understand the events of the story.