

# **Buck**

## **PREPARATION**

### **Key Words**

<b>quick</b>	(kwik)	very fast; able to do something in a short time <i>The deer in the forest were <u>quick</u> to get away.</i>
<b>race</b>	(rās)	a contest of speed <i>There was a <u>race</u> to see who was the fastest runner.</i> to run very quickly <i>She had to <u>race</u> to catch the bus.</i>
<b>rode</b>	(rōd)	past tense of ride; to have been carried by or on something <i>Peter <u>rode</u> on the pony at the farm.</i>
<b>sled</b>	(sled)	a toy or wagon used for carrying people or things on ice or snow <i>We used a <u>sled</u> to get down the snow covered hill.</i>
<b>start</b>	(stārt)	to begin to move or do something <i>When the whistle blows, the race will <u>start</u>.</i>
<b>station</b>	(stā' shən)	a stopping place <i>The train got to the <u>station</u> on time.</i>

### **Animals**

**Buck** is the dog this story is mostly about.

### **People**

**Perrault** is a man who delivers important messages for the government of Canada.

### **Places**

**Canada** is the country in the north part of North America that goes from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the United States to the Arctic Ocean.

# Buck

CTR B-21



*Buck went along with the gardener's helper on what he thought was just a walk in the woods.*

**Preview:**

1. Read the name of the story.
2. Look at the picture.
3. Read the sentence under the picture.
4. Read the first two paragraphs of the story.
5. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that

- a. Buck knew a lot about the world.
- b. Buck did not like walking with the gardener's helper.
- c. Buck wanted to go to a cold land.
- d. Buck was the kind of dog some men were looking for.

*Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 9 for the right answer.*

**Now read the story.**

Read to find out where the gardener's helper is taking Buck.

# **Buck**

Buck did not know much about the world. He didn't know that far away, in a cold land, men had found gold. There was so much snow in this land that men needed sleds to get from place to place. And they needed strong dogs to pull their sleds. Many men were looking for big, strong dogs with warm coats, like Buck. But Buck had no way to know that.

When Judge Miller rode his horse, Buck was there to race at his side. When Mrs. Miller went walking, Buck went with her. And when the Judge's sons took their morning swim, Buck joined them in the pool.

The people in Buck's life had been good to him. He did not know that some people could be bad. So one night, Buck went right along with the gardener's helper on what he thought was just a walk.

The train station was not far away. Buck had been there before. At the station, the gardener's helper met another man. This man gave the helper some money. He spoke in an angry way. The gardener's helper was quick to take the money and tie a rope around Buck's neck. Buck did not like any of it, but he was quiet.

Now Buck had always believed that the men he knew

were smarter than he. But when the helper gave the other end of the rope to the angry man, Buck growled. The man pulled the rope very tight. Then he threw Buck into a train car. Buck heard the train start. He knew he was going away, but he didn't know where or why.

All night Buck rode on the train. At the next station some men came with a cage. Buck tried to run, but they were too quick for him. Into the cage he went.

A cage was a terrible place for a dog who had always run where he wanted. As the trip went on, Buck grew more and more angry. They took him by wagon, by truck, by boat, and then by train again. For two days and nights Buck had nothing to eat.

At last the trip was over. A big man in a red sweater opened the cage. By this time, Buck was so angry he raced out and jumped at the man. But the man had a surprise for Buck. In his hand was a stick. And that stick came down hard on Buck's nose.

Again Buck tried to bite the man. Again the stick knocked him down. Buck found out that because of the stick, he had to do what this man wanted. But he didn't have to

like it!

Soon a little man named Perrault came looking for dogs to pull his sled. When he saw Buck, he smiled. This time Buck went on a boat with Perrault. He was on his way to start a new life.