

Buck's Relationships with Human Characters

Character	Discussion Questions	Word or phrase to characterize relationship & evidence
Judge Miller	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do we learn about Judge Miller through Buck? 2. Does Buck respect or love him? Why/ why not? 	<p>Affectionate but distant</p> <p><i>Accept any relevant words, phrases & evidence</i></p>
The "man in the red sweater"	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The man in the red sweater introduces Buck to "the law of club and fang" - is he cruel and brutal, or fair and practical? Why? 	<p>Brutal, but necessary</p> <p><i>Accept any relevant words, phrases & evidence</i></p>
Perrault and Francois	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why do Perrault and Francois allow Buck to fight Spitz to the death, even though it means they will lose a member of their team? 2. What does this suggest about their understanding and view of the dogs? 	<p>Supportive and encouraging</p> <p><i>Accept any relevant words, phrases & evidence</i></p>
Hal, Charles, and Mercedes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What might London be suggesting by including these three owners, who seek gold at the expense of their own well-being? 2. How do the owners actions toward Buck and the dogs reflect their values? 	<p>Cruel and dangerous</p> <p><i>Accept any relevant words, phrases & evidence</i></p>
John Thornton	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why does Buck develop genuine love for Thornton? 2. Why does Thornton admire Buck so much? 3. How does their relationship compare to other relationships that Buck has had with owners? 	<p>Loving and loyal</p> <p><i>Accept any relevant words, phrases & evidence</i></p>

Consider the various relationships that Buck has with human characters throughout *The Call of the Wild*. What central idea or theme about humans' treatment of animals does *The Call of the Wild* convey?

Possible themes:

- One can judge a person's character based on how they treat their animals.
- When animals feel safe, valued, and appreciated, they are able to respond to humans in ways that are beneficial to humans.
- Animals who feel threatened by humans due to their disrespect or poor treatment will respond in ways that can be harmful.
- Individuals who fail to appreciate animal instincts for survival may find themselves in danger.