

Book Lesson – White Fang – Jack London
Questions and Answers

Part I

Chapter 1 - the trail of meat

1. The book mentions a sled pulled by dogs. What was in the sled?

There was a narrow oblong box, blankets, an axe, a coffee-pot, and a frying pan.

2. How many men were on the sled?

There were three men in the sled, but one was dead.

3. The two men hear cries in the distance. What was making that sound?

Although the men don't say it, it seems to be wolves. They are being chased by wolves.

4. What are the names of the two men?

Their names are Henry and Bill.

5. The two men mention they have guns. Do they have bullets for the guns?

They have hardly any bullets. They say they have three cartridges (bullets).

6. What happened to their dog "Fatty"?

After one of the wolves came near the pack, Fatty ran away towards the forest and away from the fire. Bill and Henry think he probably got eaten afterwards by the wolves.

Chapter 2 - The she-wolf

1. Bill and Henry lose a second dog to the wolves. What was the dog's name? Was he similar to Fatty?

The second dog lost was named Frog and he was not like Fatty; he was the strongest dog of the bunch.

2. After losing Frog, what did Bill do to keep the dogs from leaving?

Bill tied all the dogs together with a leader harness/leash and tied it to a stick stuck to the ground as well so they wouldn't escape.

3. A dog-like creature approaches the camp. What kind of wolf is it? Why is it important?

It's a she-wolf and it attracts the dogs away from the camp so the wolves can eat them.

4. Bill refuses to have any coffee. Why won't Bill have any coffee?

Bill won't have any coffee because he said the night before that if any of the dogs go missing he wouldn't have any for breakfast.

5. Bill said the wolves looked very thin. Is that good or bad for the two men? Why?

The wolves are looking scarily thin and that's terrible for the men because it means the wolves are desperate and will eat anything they can.

6. What does the she-wolf look like?

Bill and Henry describe her as a red wolf. The narrator corrects them and says she has a wolf grey coat with a faint reddish hue.

Chapter 3 - The hunger cry

1. What happened to the men's sled at the beginning of the chapter?

Their sled got overturned and stuck between a tree and a big rock?

2. What happened to the dog named One Ear?

One ear saw the she-wolf and ran towards it. After playing with the she-wolf and straying from the pack One Ear realized he was in danger and tried running back to his owners.

3. What did Bill try to do? What happened to Bill and One Ear?

Bill got his gun and ran full steam into the wolf pack to try and save One Ear. Henry heard three shots and no-one ever returned so it seems that after using all his cartridges him and One Ear got killed and eaten by the wolves.

4. What did Henry do to the body he was carrying? Why did he do it?

Henry got some rope and hoisted the dead body onto the top of a tree. He did so the wolves would never be able to get it.

5. What did Henry realize when he was analyzing his own body?

Henry realized that just like the moose and rabbit, he too was just meat and sustenance for another animal.

6. Henry stared at the she-wolf and the she wolf stared back. What did the she wolf see in Henry?

The she wolf saw in Henry her next meal.

7. Henry was alone. What did he do to protect himself from the wolves?

Henry built a circle of fire around him and a fire in the middle and slept between the flames.

8. Henry was saved at last. How?

Henry went to sleep and woke up alone. The wolves had disappeared. A group of men had appeared, and the wolves scattered when they saw them.

Part II

Chapter 1 - The battle of the fangs

1. The she-wolf has two suitors. Who are they and what does she think of them?

The two suitors are one big wolf who is one of the leaders of the pack and the other is an old veteran wolf full of scars. She doesn't seem to like their attention and repels them with her teeth.

2. The pack of wolves finally found food. What was it and how did they kill it?

The pack ran into a male moose. They threw caution to the wind and jumped it. The moose struggled but was ultimately killed by a bite to the neck from the she-wolf.

3. Slowly the pack split up. Who was left in the pack? What happened to the three-year-old wolf and the young leader?

Only the she-wolf, the young leader, the old veteran and the three-year-old were left. The three-year-old tried attacking the old veteran but lost and was torn to pieces. When the young leader was licking his wounds, the old veteran saw an opportunity and bit him in the neck and killed him.

4. The she-wolf seems to be looking for something. What do you think she is looking for?

She looks around a lot and it's not very clear what she is looking for. They run into a group of Indian people and she seems to want to be with them. Maybe she had owners at one point.

5. The two wolves find some unexpected food. What was it?

They find a rabbit snared in a trap and they eat it.

Chapter 2 - The lair

1. The narrator says she-wolf is heavy. What does he mean?

It means that she-wolf is pregnant.

2. What was the she-wolf looking for?

The She-Wolf was looking for a place to give birth.

3. After the birth of his cubs, One Eye went out to find meat. What two animals did he find, and which did he catch?

He found a porcupine and a ptarmigan. He caught the ptarmigan.

4. One Eye saw a Lynx. What was it doing? What happened to it?

The Lynx was waiting for the porcupine to come out of its rolled-up position. The porcupine opened up after an hour and the Lynx pounced. The porcupine got torn open but stung the Lynx with its thorns. The Lynx ran away, the porcupine died, and One Eye kept the spoils.

Chapter 3 - The Grey Cub

1. What do One Eye and She wolf's cubs look like?

They mostly took after She Wolf, except for one cub which took after One Eye.

2. Where is the grey cub drawn to? Why?

The Grey cub is drawn to the outside of the cave probably because of his instincts. He seems to know that there is more to life than the cave and wants to see it.

3. The wolves are fierce. Why does the book say they are so fierce?

The book says they are fierce because they are carnivorous animals.

4. Why did the grey cub bump his nose into the grey walls?

As the grey wolf was not allowed to touch the light wall, he went about investigating the grey wall.

5. Why did One Eye stop coming into the cave? What happened to him?

One Eye stopped coming into the cave because he had stumbled across the Lynx and gotten into a fight with it and lost.

6. How many wolf cubs remained?

Only 1 wolf cub remained. It was the grey cub.

7. Why did the She-Wolf avoid the Lynx. What was the Lynx protecting?

The She-wolf avoided the Lynx because the Lynx was very strong and aggressive. Also, the Lynx was protecting her kittens.

Chapter 4 - The wall of the world.

1. What animal visited the cave?

A wolverine visited the cave.

2. Even though the grey cub feared the unknown he crossed the wall of light. What did he find on the other side? Did he like it?

On the other side of the wall of light the cub found mountains, trees and water, but he was scared of it because it was more unknown.

3. What happened when the cub jumped out of the cave?

When he jumped out, he fell down a cliff and rolled down for quite a bit.

4. What animals did he meet outside the cave? What did he think of them?

He met a squirrel, a woodpecker and a moosebird. He was scared of them.

5. He found some ptarmigans. Where did he find them? What did he do?

He fell through a rotten tree trunk and found a nest with baby ptarmigans. He played with them then ate them.

6. What happened after he ate the ptarmigan chicks. Did he win?

The Grey cub was attacked by an angry ptarmigan mother. He attacked the mother, but she got away.

7. What happened when the cub found the river?

The cub jumped in thinking it was solid and was dragged away by the current.

8. What happened between the grey cub and the weasel?

The grey cub saw a baby weasel and thought about eating it. When it was about to eat it, its mother jumped out and bit its neck. The cub ran and was about to die, when his mother (she-wolf) appeared and killed the mother weasel.

Chapter 5 - The law of meat

1. There was another famine. What did it teach the young wolf?

It taught the young wolf to observe carefully his prey and to learn the patterns of all the animals. It also helped get rid of his fear because he was desperate to eat.

2. How did the famine end?

The famine ended because his mother found and killed the Lynx kittens and brought one for him.

3. Did eating the lynx kittens have any consequences? What were they?

By eating the lynx kittens, the she-wolf attracted the revenge of the Lynx mother.

4. The Lynx and she-wolf fought. How did the fight go?

It was a very violent fight and the cub tried to help. In the end they managed to kill the Lynx, but the She-wolf was severely injured and so was the grey cub.

5. What was the law the cub discovered?

The law was EAT OR BE EATEN.

Part III

Chapter 1 - The makers of fire

1. What did the cub find? How many were there?

The cub found five people sitting around a fire.

2. What did the man try to do? What did the cub do?

The man tried to grab the cub, when he did, the cub bit him. After the cub bit him, the man hit the cub and it started crying.

3. Who came to the cub's rescue? What happened next?

His mother came. The man recognized the she-wolf and called her Kiche. They had apparently been her masters in the past.

4. What did the men name the wolf cub?

They named him White Fang. His mother's name was Kiche.

5. The men adopted Kiche and White Fang. How did White Fang feel about it? Why?

White Fang was very perturbed by this, he didn't like having his freedom limited and preferred to be free and wild.

6. What impressed White Fang the most when he saw the men's camp?

White Fang was most impressed by the constructions made by the men. These were completely opposite to how animals lived.

7. White Fang met a puppy called Lip-Lip. How was their first encounter?

Their first encounter was violent, and they started fighting. Lip-Lip won their first fight.

8. What happened when White Fang saw fire for the first time?

White Fang tried to sniff the fire and burned his nose and his tongue. Afterwards all the men and women at camp started laughing at him and he ran back to his mother.

Chapter 2 - The Bondage

1. The author says, "It is always easier to lean upon another than to stand alone". Do you agree or disagree? Why?

I agree, most times it is easier to lean on others than to stand on your own two feet, but there are definitely advantages to freedom.

2. Lip-Lip always bullied White Fang. What effects did the bullying have on White Fang?

White Fang became angry and annoyed. He was constantly persecuted, so his playful puppy side was diminished, and he became bad-tempered and older than his years. He also became quite sneaky.

3. What was the first revenge White Fang got over Lip-Lip?

White Fang pretended to be caught by Lip-Lip and ran away. Lip-Lip chased him right to where White Fang had wanted, which was to his mother. She saw Lip-Lip and beat him up.

4. White Fang and his mother Kiche were separated. How did it happen?

"Grey Beaver" (her owner) was in debt to "Three Eagles". When "Three Eagles" was going on a trip, he asked him to repay his debt. "Grey Beaver" gave him some things for his trip and Kiche as well.

5. Why did White Fang get beaten by "Grey Beaver"?

White Fang tried to go with his mother but "Grey Beaver" didn't let him. He tried biting his owner and that's why he got ruthlessly beaten.

6. What are Grey Fangs wishes?

He wants his mother back and he wants to be free.

Chapter 3 - The Outcast

1. Why did White Fang become an Outcast?

White Fang became an Outcast because Lip-Lip's bullying turned him vicious and sneaky and he stole food when he could. After some time, people associated any trouble with White Fang.

2. After becoming an outcast, White Fang became hated by man and dog. Why?

Because he was constantly being attacked by the other dogs, he decided to take them by surprise and one time he killed one and people found out.

3. The dogs always attacked him. How did White Fang defend himself?

White Fang learned to wait until a dog wandered alone and then attacked mercilessly. Also, White Fang while getting chased, would see if any of the dogs ran ahead and attack the dog that had ran faster than its companions.

4. While living in camp, White Fang grew. In what ways did he grow?

He became quicker than the other dogs, swifter, craftier, deadlier, with iron like muscles, more cruel, more ferocious and more intelligent.

Chapter 4 - The trail of the Gods

1. How did White Fang escape his camp?

The tribe prepared to move camp because Fall was coming, and White Fang used this opportunity and while everyone was packing he hid.

2. How did White Fang feel in the wild? Why?

White Fang felt lonely. He missed the warmth of the tent and the food provided by the people. He also missed the movement of people and things. The Wild was quiet and scary.

3. When he ran back to camp and saw nobody there, what did he do?

White Fang howled.

4. How did White Fang find Grey Beaver?

White Fang ran for two days straight. Luckily, Grey Beaver's tribe found a moose, killed it and took a break from their travels. That's when White Fang was able to catch up.

5. Did Grey Beaver hit White Fang when he came back? What did he do?
No, he didn't, he gave him a piece of meat.

Chapter 5 - The Covenant

1. The narrator says that the dogs pushing the sled can never attack the dogs in front. How is that possible?

When the dogs are tied to the sled, they are tied using ropes of different lengths, the distance between them longer than the length of a dog. For a dog to catch up to one in front, it would have to pull stronger, this in turn would speed up the sled and allow the dog in front to run faster and more freely.

2. Why did Mit-sah put Lip-Lip in front of the sled and give him meat?

By putting Lip-Lip in front, all the other dogs chased after him and it made him be at the bottom of the pack. He also gave him meat to make the other dogs jealous and chase him more.

3. White Fangs philosophy is "Oppress the weak, respect the strong." Do you think this is a good philosophy?

For White Fang it is a way to survive, but in normal day-to-day life, one doesn't need to be so strict.

4. Did White Fang love Grey Beaver? Why?

No, he respected him but did not love him. Grey Beaver was ruthless in discipline and never petted or spoiled the dogs, so White Fang had no reason to love him, just fear and respect him.

5. White Fang defended Mit-sah from some boys from the tribe. Why?

White Fang defended the boy because he felt that the boy had protected him in the past.

6. What job was White Fang well suited for? Why?

White Fang was well suited for the job of guard dog, because he was a loner, he was good at patrolling the camp and catching thieves.

Chapter 6 - The Famine

1. What does White Fang look like?

White Fang is big for his age, only smaller than Lip-Lip. He has a wolf grey coat and even though he is a quarter dog, he doesn't look it, although he has partly a dog's brain.

2. Baseek tried to take White Fang's meat. What happened when he tried?

When he tried to take White Fang's meat, he attacked and beat Baseek up, making him retreat.

3. What happened when White Fang saw Kiche?

White Fang recognized his mother, but she did not recognize him. She has a new litter and when he came close, she attacked him. He didn't attack back but left.

4. What is the one thing White Fang couldn't stand?

White Fang couldn't stand being laughed at.

5. What started the famine?

First, the tribe couldn't find any fish and then the winter caribou didn't show up. Also, the moose were scarce.

6. What did White Fang decide to do? Who did he meet?

White Fang decided to live off the land and separate from the tribe. While out and about he met Kiche and on another occasion Lip-Lip.

Part IV

Chapter 1 - The Enemy of his Kind

1. In the past, the other dogs respected White Fang. Why don't they respect him now?

White Fang was made sled leader, meaning he is always at the front as though he is running away from the other dogs. This made all the other dogs lose respect for him.

2. The other dogs hate White Fang. Why?

The other dogs have been domesticated for generations and therefore hate and fear the wild. White Fang has more wolf than dog to him and so he evokes that fear and hatred from the other dogs.

3. Who is "the enemy of his kind" the author is referring to? Why?

The "enemy of his kind" is White Fang himself, because he grew to hate other dogs and so anytime he gets into a fight with one of them he destroys them.

4. Why was everyone headed to Yukon?

There was a gold rush to Yukon, because many people discovered gold there. Other people, like Grey Beaver were there to sell things and make a profit.

5. White Fang had fun with the foreign dogs that came from boats. What did he do?

White Fang would attack those dogs and hurt them, afterwards he would run away and let the other local dogs continue the attack and receive punishment when their owners found out.

6. White Fang is a mean wolf. Why is he so mean?

The narrator says that if Lip-Lip hadn't bullied him and if Grey Beaver had been a more loving owner, White Fang might have become more dog-like. Instead, he turned out mean and wolfish.

Chapter 2 - Mad Dog

1. What was the big difference between Sour-doughs and "Chechaquos"?

The big difference was that "Chechaquos" made their bread using baking powder and Sour-doughs had none, so they made their bread with sour-dough.

2. One man wanted White Fang. What was the man like?

The man was skinny and looked weird. He was cowardly and worked as a cook in the fort.

3. How did Beauty Smith get White Fang?

At first, Grey Beaver wouldn't sell White Fang, so Beauty Smith came up with a plan. The plan was that he would visit Grey Beaver often with a bottle of whisky. Grey Beaver became addicted to it. Afterwards, Beauty Smith offered to buy the dog for many bottles of whisky and this time Grey Beaver accepted the offer.

4. Why did Beauty Smith beat White Fang?

Beauty Smith beat White Fang because the first night he ran back to his old master Grey Beaver.

Chapter 3 - The Reign of Hate

1. How did Beauty Smith torment White Fang?

Beauty Smith laughed at White Fang and the thing that White Fang hated the most was being laughed at.

2. Why did Beauty Smith torment him so?

Beauty Smith tormented him so, because he wanted to use him in dog fights. Probably an angry dog fights better than a happy dog.

3. What other way did Beauty Smith make money off of White Fang?

Beauty Smith exhibited White Fang as "The fighting wolf" for people to see. People would pay 50 cents in gold dust to see him.

4. How could White Fang win all his fights?

White Fang was tormented by Lip-Lip and the other dogs when he was young and so grew up strong. Also, no dog could make White Fang lose his footing. Finally, he was lightning quick.

5. White Fang fought dogs. What animal did he fight that wasn't a dog? How was the fight?

White Fang was made to fight a full-grown Lynx. The fight was terrible, and he fought for his life.

6. What dog was brought to Klondike to fight?

A bulldog was brought in to fight.

Chapter 4 -The clinging death

1. What happened in the beginning of the fight between Cherokee and White Fang?

In the beginning they didn't want to fight each other but their owners pushed them forward and irritated them.

2. Both dogs were confused by each other. Why?

Cherokee was confused because White Fang didn't meet him head on, instead he danced around and jumped in, bit him and ran away again. White Fang was confused because on the one hand, Cherokee had no fur to protect him and on the other, he was not bothered by White Fang's attacks. He just kept moving forward.

3. What made White Fang go insane?

White Fang saw an opening and tried biting the bull-dogs neck. Because the bulldog was short, White Fang missed and fell on his side. This gave the bulldog the opportunity to grab at his neck and it made White Fang go insane.

4. What was the bull-dogs technique?

The Bull-dog's technique was to hold on to White Fang's throat for as long as it could and when opportunity struck, to move on up to his throat.

5. What did Beauty Smith do to motivate White Fang? Did it work?

Beauty Smith started laughing at White Fang. It didn't work. White Fang was in a bad spot.

6. How did White Fang get saved? What happened?

A group of dog-mushers were going by and saw the commotion. Dog mushing is a type of sport where people in a sled race each other with dogs. They jumped in, separated the dogs and the one called Weedon Scott forced beauty Smith to sell him White Fang.

Chapter 5 - The Indomitable

1. How did White Fang's new owners realize that he had been a sled dog?

They saw that White Fang had harness lines across his chest. You can only get those if you've been a sled dog.

2. What happened when White Fang's new owners threw him some meat?

White Fang was suspicious of the meat and so he didn't eat it right away, another dog called Major, saw it and lunged for it. White Fang killed it.

3. What did White Fang do when Scott tried to pet him? Why didn't he bring the club?

White Fang waited but when Scott got close, he bit him. Scott didn't bring the club because he doesn't want to beat him.

4. Why did they decide not to kill White Fang?

When they brought out the gun, White Fang recognized it and hid. That meant he was smart and so they decided he was worth keeping.

Chapter 6 - The Love Master

1. How did White Fang's new owner do first to make White Fang trust him? How did the wolfdog react?

He started talking to White Fang. At first, White Fang growled but after a while he calmed down and started to enjoy the talking.

2. What did the owner do next? How did the wolf dog react?

Next, the owner held out a piece of meat, when the wolf dog didn't take it, he threw it, the owner tried that a few times, until White Fang came and ate the meat from his hand.

3. Why was White Fang so aggressive and why didn't he trust anybody?
White Fang, as we have read, was mistreated many times, even by his first owner, Grey Beaver who never petted him. Nobody had ever been nice to the wolfdog.

4. Why was it so much harder to change now than it had been in the past for the wolf dog?

Before, when he was a puppy, change came easy, he was malleable. Now he was a fully formed being and therefore change was extremely hard.

5. How did Scott turn the wolf dog's like to love?

Scott was kind to White Fang and treated him well. He was patient as well. Eventually, White Fang started trusting him and the love came.

6. Was White Fang good at expressing his love?

No, he couldn't bark, and his many years of fighting and pain had hardened him. He could love, but he could not show it. Only in his own way.

7. Why did White Fang get sick? How did he get better?

The wolf dog got sick because he missed his master. He got better when his master returned.

8. Who came to try and steal White Fang? What happened?

Beauty Smith came to steal White Fang, but he wasn't successful. The wolf dog bit him up.

Part V

Chapter 1 - The Long Trail

1. Where is Scott planning to go? Can he take the wolfdog with him? Why?

Scott is planning to go to California, and he can't take the wolfdog with him because he is too wild.

2. How is Scott getting to California?

He is taking a Steamboat called the Aurora.

3. How did the wolfdog escape the cabin?

He jumped right through the window.

4. What did Scott decide to do about White Fang?

He decided to take him to California after all.

Chapter 2 - The Southland

1. What city did they go to? What did the wolfdog think?

They went to S. Francisco. The wolfdog was overwhelmed by the tall buildings, traffic and crazy noises.

2. What kind of do did White Fang meet? Did they fight? Why?

He met a sheep dog. They didn't fight because the sheep dog was a female dog and he instinctually didn't fight female dogs.

3. What happened when Dick the dog tried to attack White Fang?

White Fang turned to Dick and was about to bite him, when in stepped the female sheep dog who knocked White Fang right off his feet.

Chapter 3 - The God's Domain

1. How did Dick and Collie feel about White Fang?

Dick thought it best to ignore him. At first, he tried to be friendly, but it didn't work. Collie on the other hand did her best to annoy him.

2. How does the wolfdog feel about Scott's children and father?

White Fang tolerates them and likes them after a while but not in the same way as he does his master.

3. Scott's father didn't believe White Fang could stop hunting chickens.

What challenge did the family co up with? What did the father have to do after?

White Fang was put into the chicken cage with the chickens for a whole afternoon. For every chicken he ate Scott would pay his father 1 dollar. If he didn't eat any his father would have to tell White Fang that he was smarter than he thought.

4. What happened to the three dogs that attacked White Fang?

The wolfdog killed them all.

Chapter 4 - The Call of Kind

1. White Fang wasn't very good at expressing himself. What new ways did he learn?

White Fang learned to laugh, he learned to romp (play) with his master and he leaned to bark.

2. What are White Fang's duties at the farms?

He doesn't have to do much, just eat, sleep and accompany his master in his horse rides.

3. Why did White Fang bark the second time?

He barked because his master had broken his leg falling off a horse. He barked at the family to come rescue him.

4. Is Collie still bothering White Fang? Why?

Not really, she seems to have taken a fancy to him.

Chapter 5 - The sleeping Wolf

1. What was in the newspapers that day?

An escaped convict from San Quentin prison. He was a ruthless man.

2. What is Jim Hall like?

He is a terrible person who was impossible to correct. He was a ruthless criminal and grew up in slums which made him worse.

3. Why was Jim Hall so angry at Judge Scott?

It was judge Scott who had sentenced him to fifty years, even though Jim Hall had been innocent of this particular crime. Jim promised he would kill him.

4. What happened when Jim Hall entered quietly into the house?

White Fang heard him and without making any noise, he jumped on the criminal and went straight for his throat.

5. How were White Fang and Jim after the fight?

White Fang had broken ribs, a broken paw and had been shot three times. Jim Hall was dead.

6. What nightmares did White Fang have?

White Fang had nightmares about cars coming for him and fighting other dogs when pushed by Beauty Smith.

7. What did White Fang see when he entered the stables?

He saw Collie with a bunch of puppies around her. His puppies.