

# Adventure Writing







**In adventure writing, the hero often has to get out of a dangerous situation.**

## What is Adventure Writing?

The hero hangs from a tree above a roaring river as a mountain lion swipes at him with a huge paw. Will the hero fall into the river far below? We keep reading to find out. This is adventure writing at its best, writing that keeps readers wondering what will happen next. It keeps readers turning the pages. In adventure writing, people often face problems that make it hard for them to stay alive.

Sometimes adventure stories are true. They tell about things that really happened. Other stories are created by a writer. In both kinds of adventure writing, people try to overcome dangers or problems.

Many people like to read adventure writing because it's exciting. Perhaps they imagine themselves as the hero who can overcome any danger.

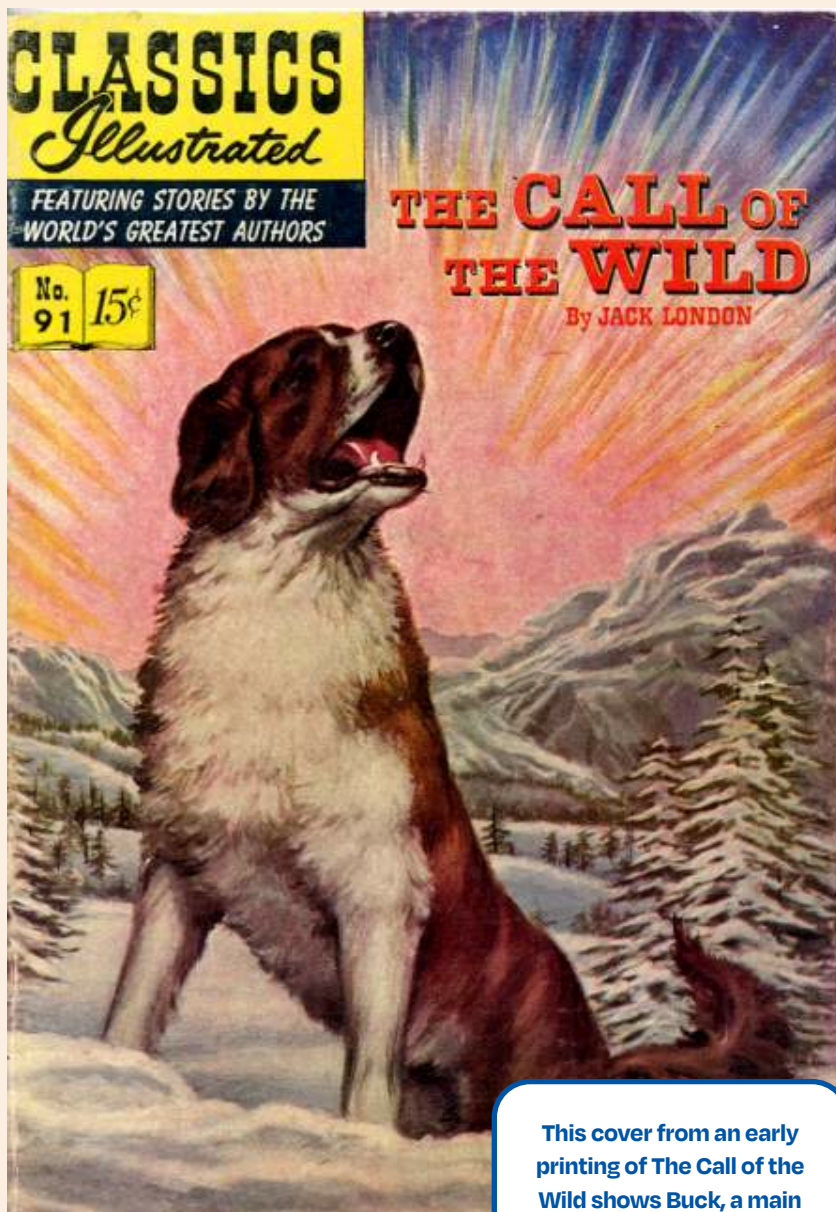
### Key Notes:

**Why do people like to read adventure stories?**

---

---





This cover from an early printing of *The Call of the Wild* shows Buck, a main character in the story.

## The Call of the Wild

*The Call of the Wild*, by Jack London, is an adventure story in which the hero is a dog named Buck. In the story, Buck is stolen, taken to Alaska, and treated badly. Then, Buck is saved by a man who treats him well, and he learns how to live in the cold Alaskan winter. Finally, Buck becomes the leader of a wild wolf pack.

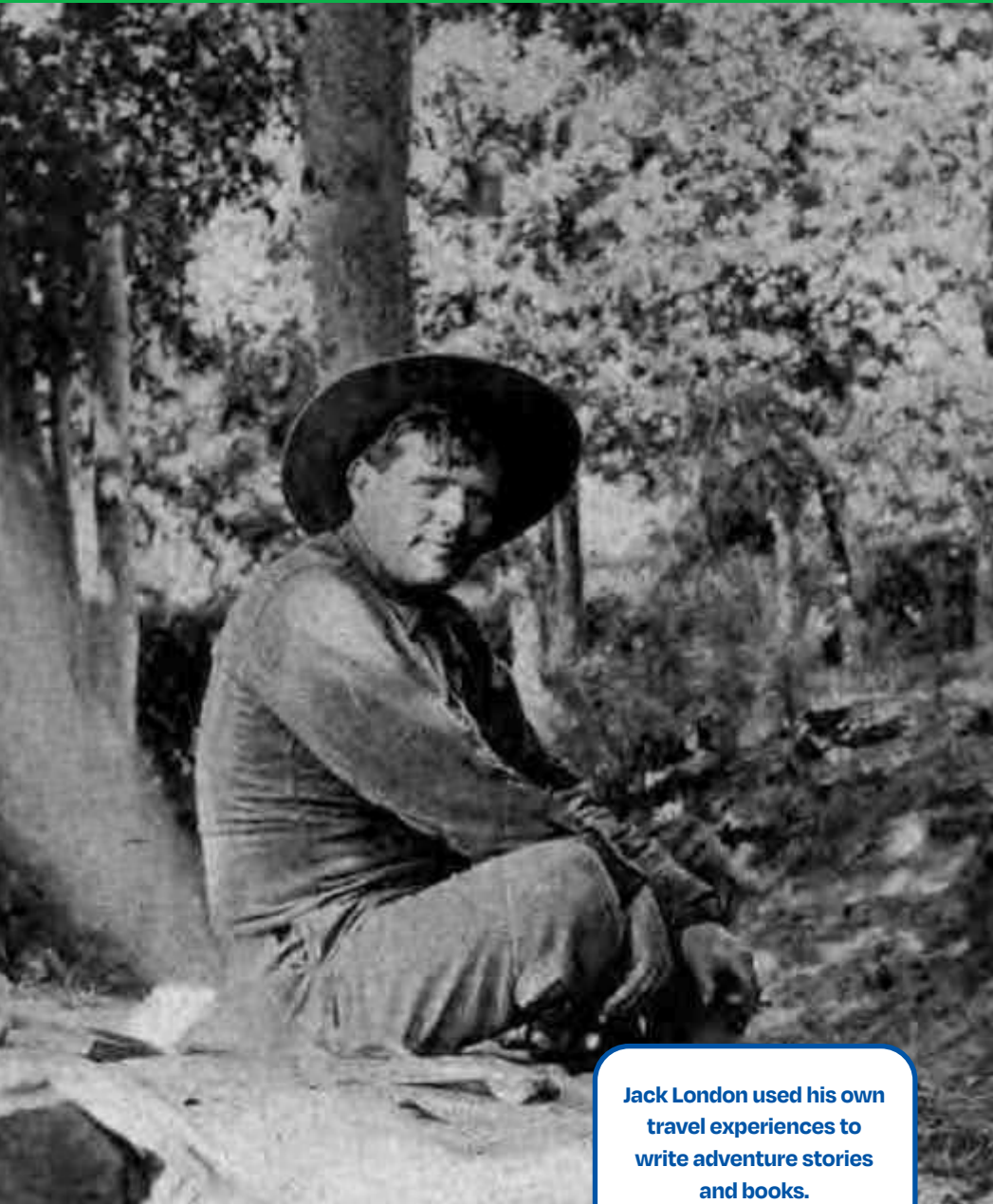
Although London wrote *The Call of the Wild* more than 100 years ago, readers around the world still love the story. At first, they feel sorry for Buck. As the story goes on, though, they see him solve problems and make a home for himself. Finally, readers see Buck living wild and free. Even though he is a dog, Buck is an adventure hero.

### Key Notes:

Why is Buck an adventure hero?

---

---



**Jack London used his own travel experiences to write adventure stories and books.**

## Jack London

Jack London, who wrote *The Call of the Wild*, led a life that was itself an adventure. He grew up poor and did different jobs all around the United States.

Then, London went to Alaska, hoping to get rich during the gold rush. Instead, he found a frozen land where living was harsh. When London didn't find gold, he returned home.

London could have been a postal worker, but he wanted a career as a writer. In 1899, the first story he sold was printed in a magazine. London wrote many nature stories that were printed in magazines. He also wrote novels. He based much of his work in his experiences in Alaska. Like an adventure hero, London had to solve many problems before he found a successful career as a writer.

### Key Notes:

**Write a new title for this reading. Explain your choice.**

---

---





This painting shows a ship stranded in ice near the South Pole.

## True Adventures

Many people have written adventure stories. They have entertained their readers with fantastic stories of trips around the world, into the wild, and under the sea.

Others have written about exciting, and true adventures. Some have written about climbing the world's highest mountain. Others have written about trying to sail to the South Pole, being trapped by ice, and nearly starving to death. One man wrote about being lost at sea on a raft for 76 days. These stories can be even more exciting because the reader knows that they really happened.

Whether or not they are true, readers find adventure stories entertaining. They think about what they might do if they experienced these fantastic adventures. They also wonder if they would be as brave as the people they read about.

### Key Notes:

What does the word *fantastic* mean in this reading?

---

---

# Photo Credits

Cover: Photo by Sanshiro KUBOTA, 2019, in Flickr.  
CC BY 2.0

Page 2: Photo by Masa Sakano, 2015, in Flickr.  
CC BY-SA 2.0

Page 4: Source: Maurice Del Bourgo, 1952,  
comicbookdb.com

Page 6: Source: Google Books - (1914-08). "Interesting  
Westerners." Sunset August 1914: 348. Southern  
Pacific Company, Passenger Dept. Public Domain

Page 8: "Wreck in the Sea of Ice/Ship in the Polar Sea,"  
painted by Caspar David Friedrich, 1798.  
Public Domain

©2022 TextProject, Inc. Some rights reserved.  
ISBN:978-1-958326-09-0



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 3.0 United States License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/us/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, 171 Second Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, California, 94105, USA.

"TextProject" and TextProject and TopicReads logos are trademarks of TextProject, Inc.