Chapters 6 and 7
Symbolism, Imagery, and Theme

Tree & Flow Map ACTIVITY

Part 1:
Statement of Theme: The lure of the wild is irresistible/instinctive behavior

8 Quotes that create Images of the Wild/Forest “...tasting the savor of the meat...”

8 Quotes that create Images of Civilization/Life with Thornton “...the love for John Thornton drew him back to the fire again.”

Illustrate/draw an image/print & paste the following in the frame. Give a single statement of what each of the following might symbolize or represent in the story. Use descriptive language.

• Forest: ________________________________ • Fire: ________________________________

Part 2:
Probing Deeper: Clearly Buck hears the call or the lure of the wild.
In Chapter 6, Buck experiences love for the first time since being kidnapped. In Chapter 7, Buck leaves the love and safety of John Thornton’s camp to roam, like a wild wolf, in the forest. After Thornton’s death, for Buck, “the last tie was broken. Man and the claims of man no longer bound him.” (Pg. 76) Thematically, his transformation from a civilized house pet to a wild dog/wolf is complete. Create four-panels depicting Buck’s transformation from Thornton’s loyal dog to a wild dog. In the first panel, show three reasons Buck loves John Thornton with a “feverish and burning, that was adoration, that was madness.” (Pg. 58). Choose an overall quote that supports this panel. Use three different incidents from Chapter 7 to create the final three. Each panel should have a quote that supports the transformation process.

Possible incidents might be:

• Reasons Buck Loves Thornton
• Buck dreams about prehistoric man.
• Buck makes contact with and is accepted by a wolf.
• Buck becomes a killing machine, taking down the bull moose.
• Buck kills the Yeehats to avenge Thornton’s death.
• Buck joins the wolf pack.

Definitions:

Imagery – the use of words to evoke impressions and meanings that are more than just the basic, accepted definitions of the words themselves.

Symbol – an object, person, or place that has a meaning in itself and that also stands for something larger than itself, usually an idea or concept; some concrete thing which represents an abstraction.

Theme – the central or dominant idea behind the story; the most important aspect that emerges from how the book treats its subject.