

HANDOUT: Efficient Reading: White Fang (Fiction) (3 pages)
Skill Builders: Key Words & Phrases, Skimming, Scanning

IN THE WORKPLACE: People read text for different purposes. Whatever the reason for reading, being able to quickly and accurately find and understand the information you need makes reading both more pleasant and more efficient.

Refer to the excerpt from the text **White Fang** to complete the tasks and locate answers to the questions.

Being able to predict content from titles and sub-titles in a document is an effective strategy to make it easier to understand the content and read faster and more efficiently.

1. **Before** reading the text, and just thinking about title, list 2 things you think will be mentioned in the text.

2. **Before** reading the text, look at the information below about the author. What do you think the author's purpose in writing will be? Write it in 1 sentence.

Author: Jack London was an American novelist, journalist, and social activist using his platform to inform the public about animal cruelty. A pioneer in the world of commercial magazine fiction, he was one of the first writers to become a worldwide celebrity and earn a large fortune from writing.

3. **Next** reading the text, what is the author's intent in writing? (For example, the author is writing to warn, inform, persuade...) Write your answer in 1 sentence.

4. What is 1 question you could ask that the text answers?

5. What is a related question that the text does NOT answer?

6. Using another source, find the answer to the question you identified in number 5. Identify the source.

7. Does the excerpt want you to read more of this text or a similar one? Why or why not?

Excerpt from *The Call of the Wild*

[Note: The story is told from the point of view of White Fang, a domesticated wolf.]

Had there been in White Fang's nature any possibility, no matter how remote, of his ever coming to fraternize with his kind, such possibility was irretrievably destroyed when he was made leader of the sled-team. For now the dogs hated him -- hated him for the extra meat bestowed upon him by Mit-sah; hated him for all the real and fancied favors he received; hated him for that he fled always at the head of the team, his waving brush of a tail and his perpetually retreating hind-quarters forever maddening their eyes.

And White Fang just as bitterly hated them back. Being sled-leader was anything but gratifying to him. To be compelled to run away before the yelling pack, every dog of which, for three years, he had thrashed and mastered, was almost more than he could endure. But endure it he must, or perish, and the life that was in him had no desire to perish. The moment Mit-sah gave his order for the start, that moment the whole team, with eager, savage cries, sprang forward at White Fang.

There was no defence for him. If he turned upon them, Mit-sah would throw the stinging lash of the whip into his face. Only remained to him to run away. He could not encounter that howling horde with his tail and hind-quarters. These were scarcely fit weapons with which to meet the many merciless fangs. So run away he did, violating his own nature and pride with every leap he made, and leaping all day long.

One cannot violate the promptings of one's nature without having that nature recoil upon itself. Such a recoil is like that of a hair, made to grow out from the body, turning unnaturally upon the direction of its growth and growing into the body -- a rankling, festering thing of hurt. And so with White Fang. Every urge of his being impelled him to spring upon the pack that cried at his heels, but it was the will of the gods that this should not be; and behind the will, to enforce it, was the whip of cariboo-gut with its biting thirty-foot lash. So White Fang could only eat his heart in bitterness and develop a hatred and malice commensurate with the ferocity and indomitability of his nature.

Ref: London, J. (2008). *The Call of the Wild*. <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/215/215-h/215-h.htm>