

Contents

PREFACE FROM THE EDITOR.....	1
CHAPTER I THE TRAIL OF THE MEAT	3
CHAPTER II THE SHE-WOLF	11
CHAPTER III THE HUNGER CRY	23
CHAPTER IV THE BATTLE OF THE FANGS	35
CHAPTER V THE LAIR	45
CHAPTER VI THE GREY CUB.....	53
CHAPTER VII THE WALL OF THE WORLD.....	59
CHAPTER VIII THE LAW OF MEAT	71
CHAPTER IX THE MAKERS OF FIRE.....	77
CHAPTER X THE BONDAGE	89
CHAPTER XI THE OUTCAST	97
CHAPTER XII THE TRAIL OF THE GODS.....	103
CHAPTER XIII THE COVENANT.....	109
CHAPTER XIV THE FAMINE.....	117
CHAPTER XV THE ENEMY OF HIS KIND.....	127
CHAPTER XVI THE MAD GOD	137
CHAPTER XVII THE REIGN OF HATE.....	145
CHAPTER XVIII THE CLINGING DEATH	151
CHAPTER XIX THE INDOMITABLE.....	163
CHAPTER XX THE LOVE-MASTER.....	169
CHAPTER XXI THE LONG TRAIL.....	183
CHAPTER XXII THE SOUTHLAND	189
CHAPTER XXIII THE GOD'S DOMAIN.....	197
CHAPTER XXIV THE CALL OF KIND	207
CHAPTER XXV THE SLEEPING WOLF.....	215
GLOSSARY	223

PREFACE FROM THE EDITOR

Designed for school districts, educators, and students seeking to maximize performance on standardized tests, Webster's paperbacks take advantage of the fact that classics are frequently assigned readings in English courses. By using a running thesaurus at the bottom of each page, this edition of *White Fang* by Jack London was edited for students who are actively building their vocabularies in anticipation of taking PSAT[®], SAT[®], AP[®] (Advanced Placement[®]), GRE[®], LSAT[®], GMAT[®] or similar examinations.¹

Webster's edition of this classic is organized to expose the reader to a maximum number of synonyms and antonyms for difficult and often ambiguous English words that are encountered in other works of literature, conversation, or academic examinations. Extremely rare or idiosyncratic words and expressions are given lower priority in the notes compared to words which are "difficult, and often encountered" in examinations. Rather than supply a single synonym, many are provided for a variety of meanings, allowing readers to better grasp the ambiguity of the English language, and avoid using the notes as a pure crutch. Having the reader decipher a word's meaning within context serves to improve vocabulary retention and understanding. Each page covers words not already highlighted on previous pages. If a difficult word is not noted on a page, chances are that it has been highlighted on a previous page. A more complete thesaurus is supplied at the end of the book; Synonyms and antonyms are extracted from Webster's Online Dictionary.

Definitions of remaining terms as well as translations can be found at www.websters-online-dictionary.org. Please send suggestions to websters@icongroupbooks.com

The Editor
Webster's Online Dictionary
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CHAPTER I

THE TRAIL OF THE MEAT

Dark spruce forest frowned on either side the frozen waterway. The trees had been stripped by a recent wind of their white covering of frost, and they seemed to lean towards each other, black and ominous, in the fading light. A vast silence reigned over the land. The land itself was a desolation, lifeless, without movement, so lone and cold that the spirit of it was not even that of sadness. There was a hint in it of laughter, but of a laughter more terrible than any sadness--a laughter that was **mirthless** as the smile of the sphinx, a laughter cold as the frost and **partaking** of the **grimness** of **infallibility**. It was the masterful and **incommunicable** wisdom of eternity laughing at the futility of life and the effort of life. It was the Wild, the savage, frozen- hearted Northland Wild.

But there *was* life, abroad in the land and defiant. Down the frozen waterway toiled a string of **wolfish** dogs. Their **bristly** fur was **rimed** with frost. Their breath froze in the air as it left their mouths, **spouting** forth in spumes of vapour that settled upon the hair of their bodies and formed into crystals of frost. Leather harness was on the dogs, and leather traces attached them to a **sled** which dragged along behind. The sled was without runners. It was made of stout birch-bark, and its full surface rested on the snow. The front end of the sled was turned up, like a scroll, in order to force down and under the bore of soft snow

Thesaurus

<p>bristly: (<i>adj</i>) barbed, thorny, rough, spiny, stiff, hairy, setaceous, briery, bristled, barbellate, briary. ANTONYM: (<i>adj</i>) soft.</p> <p>grimness: (<i>n</i>) asperity, austerity, rigor, sternness, rigour, ghastliness, strictness, bleakness, hardness, gloominess, harshness. ANTONYMS: (<i>n</i>) brightness, pleasantness, warmth.</p> <p>incommunicable: (<i>adj</i>) unspeakable, unutterable, ineffable, indescribable, beyond description, inalienable,</p>	<p>noncommittal, undefinable, beggaring description, beyond words.</p> <p>infallibility: (<i>n</i>) inerrability, inerrancy, dependability, reliability, inerrableness, dependableness, infallibleness, truth.</p> <p>mirthless: (<i>adj</i>) cheerless, melancholy, gloomy, lacking mirth, unhappy, unamused.</p> <p>partaking: (<i>n</i>) input, contribution.</p> <p>rimed: (<i>adj</i>) frosty, rhyming, frosted,</p>	<p>assonant, rimy, riming, parky, nippy, nipping, icy, glacial.</p> <p>sled: (<i>n</i>) sledge, luge, toboggan, bobsleigh, pung, maul, jumper, dogsled, dog sleigh.</p> <p>spouting: (<i>adj</i>) spurting, squirting, flowing; (<i>n</i>) jet, running, harangue, drift, scope.</p> <p>wolfish: (<i>adj</i>) edacious, esurient, voracious, ravening, rapacious, predatory, ferocious, savage, wolflike, greedy; (<i>n</i>) lupine.</p>
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that surged like a wave before it. On the sled, securely lashed, was a long and narrow **oblong** box. There were other things on the sled--blankets, an axe, and a coffee-pot and frying-pan; but prominent, occupying most of the space, was the long and narrow oblong box.

In advance of the dogs, on wide snowshoes, toiled a man. At the rear of the sled toiled a second man. On the sled, in the box, lay a third man whose toil was over,--a man whom the Wild had conquered and beaten down until he would never move nor struggle again. It is not the way of the Wild to like movement. Life is an offence to it, for life is movement; and the Wild aims always to destroy movement. It freezes the water to prevent it running to the sea; it drives the sap out of the trees till they are frozen to their mighty hearts; and most **ferociously** and terribly of all does the Wild harry and crush into submission man--man who is the most restless of life, ever in revolt against the dictum that all movement must in the end come to the cessation of movement.

But at front and rear, **unawed** and **indomitable**, toiled the two men who were not yet dead. Their bodies were covered with fur and soft-tanned leather. Eyelashes and cheeks and lips were so coated with the crystals from their frozen breath that their faces were not discernible. This gave them the seeming of ghostly masques, undertakers in a spectral world at the funeral of some ghost. But under it all they were men, penetrating the land of desolation and mockery and silence, puny adventurers bent on colossal adventure, **pitting** themselves against the might of a world as remote and alien and **pulseless** as the abysses of space.

They travelled on without speech, saving their breath for the work of their bodies. On every side was the silence, pressing upon them with a tangible presence. It affected their minds as the many atmospheres of deep water affect the body of the diver. It crushed them with the weight of unending vastness and **unalterable** decree. It crushed them into the **remotest** recesses of their own minds, pressing out of them, like juices from the grape, all the false ardours and exaltations and undue self-values of the human soul, until they perceived themselves finite and small, specks and motes, moving with weak cunning and

Thesaurus

ferociously: (*adv*) brutally, wildly, savagely, inhumanly, severely, violently, vehemently, roughly, furiously, cruelly, atrociously. ANTONYMS: (*adv*) pleasantly, tamely.

indomitable: (*adj, v*) firm, gritty, iron; (*adj*) dogged, invincible, inflexible, tough, irresistible, rigid, dauntless, undaunted. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) feeble, submissive, weak, irresolute.

oblong: (*adj*) oval, elliptical,

rectangular, rounded; (*v*) longitudinal; (*n*) block, quadrangle.

pitting: (*n*) stoning, indentation, destructive pitting, corrosion, pit, pin holes, indenture, indent, harshness, erosion, disorderliness.

pulseless: (*adj*) inanimate, dead, breathless, nonliving, dyspnoeic, dyspnoeal, dyspneic, dyspneal, breathtaking, appearing dead.

remotest: (*adj*) furthest, uttermost, endmost, extreme, last, utmost.

unalterable: (*adj*) constant, inalterable, immutable, permanent, invariable, firm, changeless, rigid, stable, irrevocable, unchangeable. ANTONYMS: (*adj*) alterable, impermanent, temporary, fluid, flexible.

unawed: (*adj*) unflinching, unshrinking, unblanched, unabashed, unapprehensive, undaunted, undismayed, final, firmly determined, peremptory, positive.