

Reading Skills and Strategies Worksheet  
**The Call of the Wild**

*Chapters 4–5*

**Chapters 4–5: Charting Causes and Effects**

A **cause** is what makes something happen. The **effect** is what happens. Recognizing causes and effects can help you to understand events in a novel and what the events mean. For example, Buck realized that he would have to be aggressive because he saw how Curly died. Because he wanted to be “the dominant primordial beast,” Buck challenged Spitz.

Complete the following cause-and-effect chart. In the second column, give an example of a cause for each problem in this section. (One example has been done for you.) In the third column, state at least one result.

PROBLEM	CAUSE	EFFECT
<b>Attitude</b>	Hal, Charles, and Mercedes are stubborn about wanting to get to Dawson.	..... ..... .....
<b>Behavior</b>	..... ..... .....	..... ..... .....
<b>Schedule</b>	..... ..... .....	..... ..... .....
<b>Baggage</b>	..... ..... .....	..... ..... .....
<b>Animal Care</b>	..... ..... .....	..... ..... .....
<b>Food</b>	..... ..... .....	..... ..... .....

The Call of the Wild, Chapters 4–5 *continued*

---

**VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT: USING CONTEXT CLUES**

Look back at the words *salient* (p. 59), *repugnance* (p. 61), and *voracious* (p. 66).

What context clues help you understand their meanings? Write a definition for each word, and then check in a dictionary to see if you're right.

**PREDICTING WHAT'S NEXT**

How do you think Buck will feel about John Thornton?