The Call of the Wild

LITERARY ELEMENTS WORKSHEET

Dialogue

Dialogue, or conversation between characters, can help us better understand the characters' personalities.

Think about the following story details and snatches of dialogue from *The Call of the Wild*. Then, write what you think each example reveals about the character or characters involved.

1. Story detail: Buck is stolen from Judge Miller and sold.

Dialogue: "You might wrap up the goods before you deliver 'm," the stranger said gruffly, and Manuel doubled a piece of stout rope around Buck's neck under the collar.

"Twist it, an' you'll choke 'm plentee," said Manuel, and the stranger grunted a ready affirmative.

This dialogue reveals that

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2. Story detail: Buck and Spitz fight.

Dialogue: "One devil, dat Spitz," remarked Perrault. "Some dam' day heem keel dat Buck."

"Dat Buck two devils," was François's rejoinder. "All de tam I watch dat Buck I know for sure. Lissen: some dam fine day heem get mad lak hell an' den heem chew dat Spitz all up an' spit heem out on de snow. Sure. I know."

This dialogue reveals that

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3. Story detail: Hal, Charles, and Mercedes overload their dog sled.

Dialogue: "The lazy brutes, I'll show them," [Hal] cried, preparing to lash out at them with the whip.

But Mercedes interfered, crying, "Oh, Hal, you mustn't. . . . The poor dears! Now you must promise you won't be harsh with them for the rest of the trip, or I won't go a step."

This dialogue reveals that

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