

The Call of the Wild

LITERARY ELEMENTS WORKSHEET

Simile

A **simile** is a comparison between two unlike things. Many similes use the words *like* or *as* in their comparisons. For example, in describing the betting contest outside the Eldorado Saloon, London writes, “Thornton’s command cracked out like a pistol shot.” The comparison suggests that Thornton spoke loudly and quickly and that his words carried power.

Complete this chart by explaining the comparison in each simile.

SIMILE	COMPARISON
Driving snow, a wind that cut like a white-hot knife, and darkness had forced them to grope for a camping place.
. . . [Mercedes] attacked the belongings of her men and went through them like a tornado.
And through it all Buck staggered along at the head of the team as in a nightmare.
. . . [They] found . . . a shallow placer in a broad valley where the gold showed like yellow butter across the bottom of the washing pan.
His muscles were surcharged with vitality, and snapped into play sharply, like steel springs.