













JACK LONDON
STATE HISTORIC PARK

Jack London State Historic Park

Self-Guided
Tour Packet

**for Schools, Camps,
and other Large Groups**

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Welcome to Jack London State Historic Park!

Thank you for choosing our site as your field trip destination. At Jack London State Historic Park, we believe passionately in the power of learning through experience and know that first-hand encounters with history and the natural world can inspire and foster a desire for life-long learning.

We want to support you and your efforts to create a memorable field trip for your students and campers while you are here. This pre-visit guide was designed to be a helpful resource for educators and group leaders and contains maps and information about the park, as well as historical information on Jack London's life and legacy. Each historical feature and building on the site has its own chapter of information and points of interest. In the appendix you will find a few suggested lessons and activities that enhance certain aspects of the park and speak to several learning standards.

Park Video: Teachers and other group leaders can watch 20-minute orientation video that describes features of the park including historic film footage and subtitles for the hearing impaired. You will find this video on Youtube at <https://youtu.be/Xqa7xb0exes>

We hope these materials provide you with a helpful foundation to develop your own magical trip through time as you journey through Jack London's beloved home!

Connections to Common Core

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.8](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.9](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.8](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.9](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.9](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.9](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.8](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.9](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.11-12.8](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.11-12.9.A](#)

Connections to Next Generation Science *(Connected primarily to Jack's sustainable farming efforts, earthquake-proofing of structures, and navigation activities aboard the Snark)*

K-ESS3-3; 1-ESS1.A; 2-LS2.A; ETS1.B; 2-ESS2-1; K-2-ETS1.A; 3-ESS3.B; 4-ESS3-2; 4-ESS3.A; 4-ESS3.B; 5-LS2.A; MS-LS2.B; MS-ESS1.B; MS-ESS3.C; HS-ESS1.A; HS-ESS3.C

Arriving at the Park



Below are some helpful planning and safety tips to be aware of when preparing for your trip.

- The gates open at 9:00am and close at 5:00pm.
- The only restrooms with running water are located at the end of the Museum parking lot. Since the typical visit to the Wolf House ruins lasts more than an hour, students may want to use the restrooms before beginning the walk down. There are several porta-toilets along the way.
- Groups are welcome to enjoy lunch after their tour at picnic tables located throughout the park. The group picnic area on the knoll next to the Beauty Ranch parking lot is available when not reserved by a private group. Other individual picnic tables are located within the Museum parking lot.
- The park is generally very safe. However, visitors should be aware that there are three potential risks in the park:
 - ⚠ Rattlesnakes can be found throughout the park. They are a vital and important predator that serves to keep the natural balance of this ecosystem in-check. Please take the opportunity to help students understand their key role, if you should encounter one. ALL wildlife should be left undisturbed and given a wide berth. Although snakes may be seen crossing or sunning on trails, they will generally be found in grassy areas, on rocks, or near rock walls. THEY SHOULD NOT BE DISTURBED or harassed (screaming and jumping around will only frighten and agitate). If a snake is found in an area where students are having a picnic, calmly and quietly re-locate the group and notify a park staff member who will safely remove the snake. Contrary to popular myth, snakes are shy animals that do not like confrontation any more than we do. If you give them space and a clear escape route, they will take it!
 - ⚠ Poison Oak can be prevalent near the trails. All parts of the plant, including dropped leaves and stems, contain an oil that can cause a severe rash and should not be touched, even if dead or dried.
 - ⚠ Ticks can be found in grassy/brushy areas throughout California. Some ticks can carry the bacteria that causes Lyme Disease. If you find a tick on you or a student, simply take it off. If a tick has become imbedded within the skin, you can try to remove it whole and intact. Anyone who has had to remove a tick should visit their doctor shortly after to ensure they have not been infected (take the tick with them). Be prepared by visiting the CDC's website for clear instructions on safe tick removal ahead of time.
http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/removing_a_tick.html

Most safety issues can be avoided by ensuring that visitors remain on marked trails.



Park Policies and Regulations



In order to ensure a comfortable and positive experience for all of our visitors, we ask that you and your groups adhere to the following guidelines throughout your visit:

PROTECTING THE WILDLIFE – All of the trails and historical features are located on California State Park Property. There are strict guidelines in place to protect the park for future generations to come.

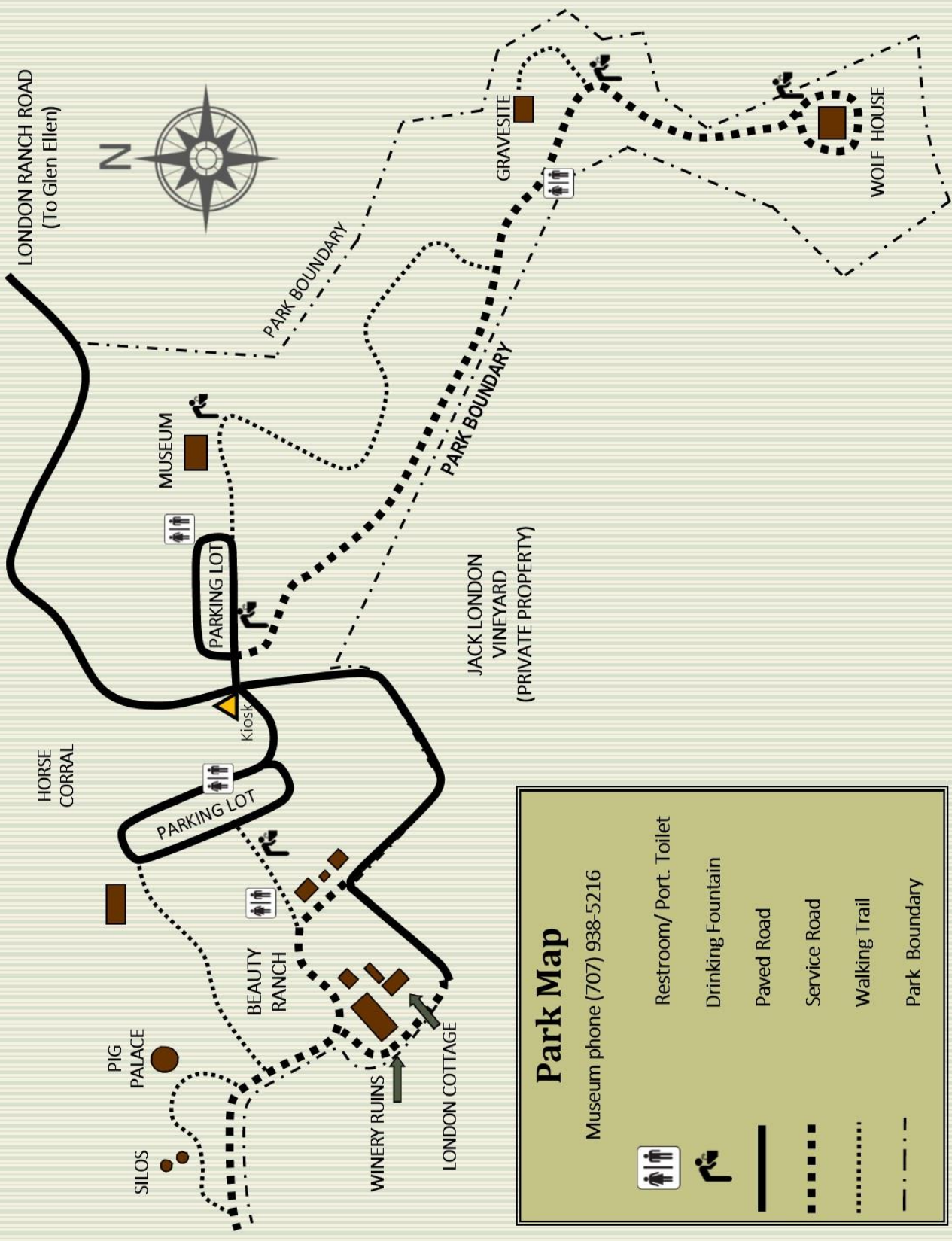
- 🌿 *Natural scenery, plants and animal life* are the principal attractions of most state parks. They are integral parts of the ecosystem and natural community. As such they are protected by Federal, State and Park laws. Disturbance or destruction of these resources is strictly forbidden. **Do not remove or damage any plant or animal life on site.** Always stay on designated trails. “Short-cuts” create erosion and picking flowers removes precious seeds and pollen!
- 🌿 *Dead and down wood* is part of the natural condition of the woods. Decayed vegetation forms humus and assists the growth of trees and other plants. For this reason, the gathering of down wood is prohibited.
- 🌿 *No Smoking* is allowed anywhere on the trails or near the ruins. The only two locations where this is permitted for visiting adults are the parking lots adjacent to the museum and Beauty Ranch. Please extinguish items completely and use designated ash buckets for disposal. **DO NOT** throw cigarette filters on the ground. They are hazardous to wildlife!

PROTECTING THE ARTIFACTS – All of the structures and most of the artifacts at the park are authentic.

- 🏠 *Some of the buildings and ruins* date all the way back to the 1800's. Do not climb-on, compromise, or disrupt any of the stone structures or other historical buildings. Please stay behind safety barriers at all times.
- 🏠 *Artifacts and memorabilia* inside the House of Happy Walls Museum and London's Cottage are either original artifacts or museum-quality reproductions. The natural oils in our hands can cause damage to these fragile items over time. Please do not touch any of the items and artifacts on display.
- 🏠 *Photographs* are welcome everywhere in the park but **DO NOT** use flash photography within the House of Happy Walls or inside London's Cottage. This can damage delicate textiles and other items.

GROUP MANAGEMENT AND VISITOR EXPERIENCE – The trails at Jack London State Historic Park are shared by many different user groups each day. We want all of our visitors to leave with positive memories of their time here.

- 👥 *Maintaining orderly student conduct* is the responsibility of the adults accompanying the group. We ask that students be attentive and respectful of other park visitors. Please review the park guidelines at <http://jacklondonpark.com/jack-london-group-leaders-guide.html> for details regarding your visit.
- 👥 *Using designated eating areas* for lunch and snack is very important in protecting habitat and wildlife. **DO NOT ALLOW** students or anyone else to feed wildlife or leave food behind. Please also ensure that everyone in your group cleans up all trash (**don't forget small items which can be mistaken for food by many animals!**). Trash and recycling receptacles are provided in parking lots and picnic areas.



A Brief Biography of Jack



Jack London was born on January 12, 1876. By age 30 London was internationally famous for his books *Call of the Wild* (1903), *The Sea Wolf* (1904) and other literary and journalistic accomplishments. Though he wrote passionately about the great questions of life and death and the struggle to survive with dignity and integrity, he also sought peace and quiet inspiration. His stories of high adventure were based on his own experiences at sea, in the Yukon Territory, and in the fields and factories of California. His writings appealed to millions worldwide.

London was also widely known for his personal exploits. A colorful, controversial personality, London was often in the news. Generally fun loving, he was quick to side with the underdog against injustice of any kind. An eloquent public speaker, he was much sought after as a lecturer on socialism and other economic and political topics. Strikingly handsome, full of laughter, restless and courageous, always eager for adventure, Jack London was one of the most romantic figures of this time and most people considered London a living symbol of rugged individualism; a man whose fabulous success was not due to special favor of any kind, but to a combination of immense mental ability and vitality.

He ascribed his worldwide literary success largely to hard work - to 'dig', as he put it. Between 1900 and 1916 he completed more than 50 fiction and non-fiction books, hundreds of short stories and numerous articles. Several of the books and many of the short stories are classics and still popular; some have been translated into as many as 70 languages. Among the best known are *Call of the Wild*, *White Fang*, *The Sea Wolf*, *Martin Eden* and *John Barleycorn*. In addition to his writing and speaking commitments, London carried on voluminous correspondence (he received some 10,000 letters per year), read proofs of his work as it went to press, and negotiated with his agents and publishers. He spent time overseeing construction of his custom-built sailing ship, the *Snark*, (1906-1907); the construction of his dream house, *Wolf House* (1910-1913); and the operation of his farm, *Beauty Ranch*, (1905-1916).

The natural beauty of Sonoma Valley was not lost on Jack London. The magnificent vistas and rolling hills of Glen Ellen were an ideal place for Jack and Charmian (London's second wife) to relax and enjoy the natural life. 'When I first came here, tired of cities and people, I settled down on a little farm...130 acres of the most beautiful, primitive land to be found in California.' Though the farm was badly run down, he reveled in its natural beauty.

"All I wanted," London said later, 'was a quiet place in the country to write and loaf in and get out of Nature that something which we all need, only the most of us don't know it.'

But true to London's vigorous nature, he did little loafing and was soon busy buying farm equipment and livestock for his Sonoma Mountain ranch. He began work on a new barn as well as envisioning his dream home, *Wolf House*. "This is to be no summer residence proposition," he wrote to his publisher as he began planning in 1905, "but a home all the year round. I am anchoring good and solid, and anchoring for keeps."

Living and owning land near Glen Ellen was a way of escaping Oakland, from the city way of life he called 'the man trap.' But, restless and eager for foreign travel and adventure, he decided to build a ship, the *Snark*, and go sailing around the world, serializing his adventure. The *Snark* voyage made it as far as the South Pacific and Australia but was curtailed due to ill health. Discouraged by health problems and heartbroken about having to abandon the trip and sell the *Snark*, the Londons returned to their ranch in Glen Ellen.

Between 1908 and 1913 London purchased adjoining farms and in 1911 he moved from Glen Ellen to a small wood frame house in the middle of his holdings. On horseback Jack explored every canyon, glen and hilltop. He threw himself into the farming fad of the period, scientific agriculture, believing this to be a truly justifiable, basic and idealistic means of making a living. A significant portion of his later writing – *Burning Daylight* (1910), *Valley of the Moon* (1913) and *Little Lady of the Big House* (1916) centered on the simple pleasures of country life, the satisfaction of making a living from the land and remaining close to nature.

Jack and Charmian London's dream house began to take shape early in 1911 when a well-known San Francisco architect, Albert Farr, created the drawings and sketches for Wolf House. Farr supervised the early stages of construction of a grand house that was to remain standing 'for a thousand years'.

By August 1913 London had spent \$50,000 and the project was nearly complete. On August 22, final cleanup got underway and plans were laid for moving the London's specially designed custom furniture, thousands of books, collections from travel, and personal belongings into the massive stone and redwood residence. That night, a ranch hand noticed a glow in the sky half a mile away. Wolf House was burning. By the time the Londons arrived by horseback the house was ablaze, the tile roof had collapsed, and even a stack of lumber some distance away was burning. Nothing could be done to save it.

London looked at the fire philosophically, but the loss was a crushing financial blow and the end of a long-cherished dream. Rumors abounded about the cause of the fire. In 1995 a group of forensic fire experts visited the site and concluded that the fire resulted from spontaneous combustion in a pile of linseed oil-soaked rags left by workers. London planned to rebuild Wolf House, but at the time of his death in 1916 the house remained as it stands today, the stark but eloquent vestige of a shattered dream.

The loss of Wolf House left London depressed but he forced himself to go back to work. He added a new writer's study to the cottage, continued his efforts to breed prize livestock, and expanded his plans for the 1400 acres he now owned.

Occasionally London traveled to New York, San Francisco, or Los Angeles on business. He spent time living and working aboard his 30ft. yawl, the *Roamer*, which he sailed around San Francisco Bay and the nearby Sacramento and San Joaquin deltas. Jack's love for sailing never ceased and he always found peace on the water.

In 1914 Jack was a war correspondent in Mexico, covering the role of US troops and Navy ships in the Villa-Carranza revolt. In 1915 and 1916, Charmian persuaded her husband to spend time in Hawaii, a relaxing and healthful respite for the two of them. But London's greatest satisfaction came from his ranch activities. His ambitious plans to expand the ranch and increase productivity kept him in debt and under pressure to write as fast as he could, even though this might mean sacrificing quality for quantity. He continued to push to complete 1000 words per day regardless of his location, duties, or health.

When London's doctors urged him to change his work habits and his diet, stop all use of alcohol and get more exercise, he refused. If anything, the pressure of his financial commitments to helping friends and relatives and his increasingly severe health problems, only made him dream larger dreams and work harder and faster.

On November 22, 1916, 40-year-old Jack London died of gastrointestinal uremic poisoning. He had been suffering from a variety of ailments, including a kidney condition, but up to the last day of his life

he was full of bold plans and boundless enthusiasm for the future. Words of grief poured into the telegraph office in Glen Ellen from all over the world.

“No writer, unless it were Mark Twain, ever had a more romantic life than Jack London. The untimely death of this most popular of American fictionists has profoundly shocked a world that expected him to live and work for many years longer.” ~Ernest Hopkins, San Francisco Bulletin, December 2, 1916.

Charmian Kittredge London



One of the most important people in Jack London's life was his second wife, Charmian Kittredge. Charmian was Jack London's "mate woman" and life partner. She was born November 27, 1871 in Wilmington, CA, a suburb of Los Angeles. Her mother, Daisy Wiley Kittredge, died when she was 6 years old and she was raised by her Aunt Netta and Uncle Roscoe Eames in Oakland, CA.

Home schooled by Netta, Charmian studied literature, geography, and art. She had a genuine love for music and had the discipline to train herself to become an accomplished pianist, organist and singer. Netta instilled the ideals of feminism, vegetarianism, socialism and a modern outlook on relationships.

Charmian learned shorthand and typing skills from her Uncle, which would later help Jack in his writing career. She attended Mills College and supported herself by working as secretary to Susan B. Mills, President of the college. Her motto, "work as if you were to live forever, live as if you were to die tomorrow."

Charmian was ambitious, both socially and intellectually. She worked hard to advance herself and went to work as a secretary for a shipping firm in San Francisco and earned enough money to support herself and travel to Europe. For this time period, it was very unusual for a woman to work in an office and be so independent. Charmian also had a deep love of horses and was a woman of great physical courage. She rode her horse cross-saddle when women were still riding English side-saddle and became an out-spoken advocate defending it.

Charmian and Jack fell in love in the summer of 1903 at a time when Jack's marriage to Bessie Maddern had already fallen apart. Jack was impressed that while Charmian knew domestic arts, she refused to domesticate her mind and was better read than most of his male friends. She was the comrade that he sought and game for adventure. They were married on November 20, 1905 shortly after Jack's divorce was final. Their marriage was successful and lasted until Jack's death in 1916.

Charmian fit perfectly into Jack's life with her spirit of adventure and sense of fun. She became Jack's "mate woman," and was his steady companion on many of his adventures and his working life. On several occasions during the cruise of the Snark, the entire crew became ill and Charmian became the skipper, cook and nurse of the crew to keep the ship afloat.

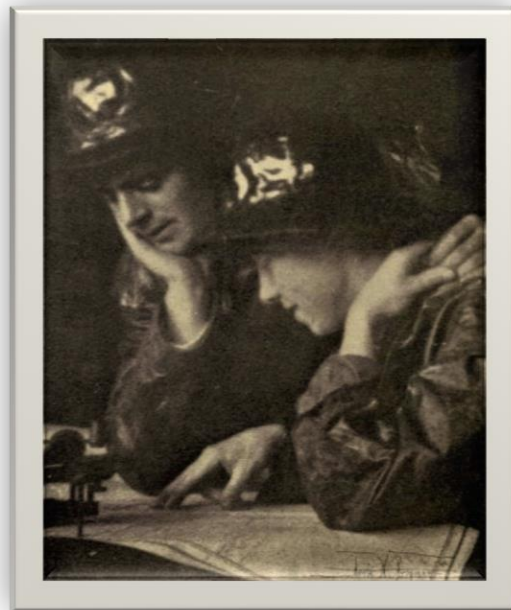
Charmian and Jack's dream of parenthood never materialized. Charmian became pregnant twice. One child whom they named Joy survived only a few hours and another child was lost due to a miscarriage.

After Jack's death in 1916, Charmian committed herself to saving Beauty Ranch and promoting Jack's legacy. She sold his writings and worked with the movie industry to convert Jack's books into films. Never remarrying, she travelled frequently to Europe to work with agents, publishers and translators and became a well-known personality in her own right.

In 1919-1926, Charmian built a new home and named it "The House of Happy Walls." The purpose of this structure was to display artifacts related to Jack and their happy life together. In her mind, it was always intended to be a museum of sorts. Charmian also wrote three books of her own – *Our Hawaii*; *The Log of the Snark*; and a biography *The Book of Jack London*. She also wrote a daily journal (diary) 1900-1947.

Charmian died January 14, 1955 at the age of 83 and her ashes joined those of her beloved Jack under the rock on a little knoll in Jack London State Park. After her death, Irving Shepard (son of Jack's stepsister, Eliza) facilitated Charmian's request to donate her House of Happy Walls, and 39 acres of land, to the State of California. Her wishes were fulfilled in October of 1960 when Jack London State Park was officially opened to the public.

"My love for Jack is a sort of worship. Not a fetish sort of thing. It is a grand emotion—a high passion. I seem to love, as always, as in a beaming light of him. Whom better could one worship? I say it to a friend of his. He was so grand. His light is immortal to me—even if he is not. I think you recognize the feeling. It precludes despair or true loneliness. It HAS BEEN and the after-glow is, and shall be forever. I know he would weep should I miss one thrill of living. Rather, would he rejoice in that he better fitted me for life and living. - Cheerful, I rise from my bed. I possess worthwhileness, whether worthwhileness really be or not. I will to create worthwhileness for myself, while I may last in the flesh. I will not die while I am still living. I will not to die by moments, by inches. I will to die all at once, and completely. Is that a worn and tattered creed? I think not."



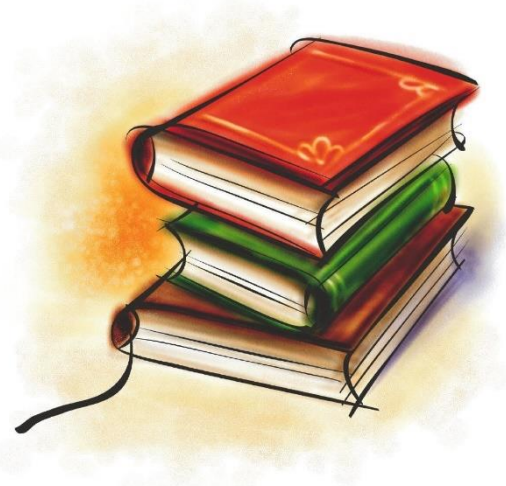
Chronological list of Jack London's Published Books

Between 1900 and 1916, he completed more than 50 fiction and nonfiction books, hundreds of short stories and numerous articles. Several of the books and many of the short stories are classics and still popular; some have been translated into as many as 70 languages. Among his most well-known books are *Call of the Wild*, *White Fang*, *The Sea Wolf*, *Martin Eden*.

First edition books are highly prized by collectors and first edition books with the original dust cover can cost thousands of dollars. Many of Jack's books are still being published today.

A complete list of Jack London books, by date of publication:

1900 <i>The Son of the Wolf</i>	1913 <i>The Abysmal Brute</i>
1901 <i>The God of His Fathers</i>	1913 <i>John Barleycorn</i>
1902 <i>Children of the Frost</i>	1913 <i>The Valley of the Moon</i>
1902 <i>The Cruise of the Dazzler</i>	1914 <i>The Strength of the Strong</i>
1902 <i>A Daughter of the Snows</i>	1914 <i>The Mutiny of the Elsinore</i>
1903 <i>The Kempton-Wace Letters</i>	1915 <i>The Scarlet Plague</i>
1903 <i>The Call of the Wild</i>	1915 <i>The Star Rover</i>
1903 <i>The People of the Abyss</i>	1916 <i>The Little Lady of the Big House</i>
1904 <i>The Faith of Men</i>	1916 <i>The Acorn Planter</i>
1904 <i>The Sea Wolf</i>	1916 <i>The Turtles of Tasman</i>
1905 <i>War of the Classes</i>	1917 <i>The Human Drift</i>
1905 <i>The Game</i>	1917 <i>Jerry of the Islands</i>
1905 <i>Tales of the Fish Patrol</i>	1917 <i>Michael Brother of Jerry</i>
1906 <i>Moon-Face and Other Stories</i>	1918 <i>The Red One</i>
1906 <i>White Fang</i>	1918 <i>Hearts of Three</i>
1906 <i>The Scorn of Women</i>	1919 <i>On the Makaloa Mat</i>
1907 <i>Before Adam</i>	1922 <i>Dutch Courage and Other Stories</i>
1907 <i>Love of Life and Other Stories</i>	1963 <i>The Assassination Bureau</i>
1907 <i>The Road</i>	
1908 <i>The Iron Heel</i>	
1909 <i>Martin Eden</i>	
1910 <i>Lost Face</i>	
1910 <i>Theft</i>	
1910 <i>Revolution and Other Essays</i>	
1910 <i>Burning Daylight</i>	
1911 <i>When God Laughs and Other Stories</i>	
1911 <i>Adventure</i>	
1911 <i>The Cruise of the Snark</i>	
1911 <i>South Sea Tales</i>	
1912 <i>The House of Pride and Other Stories</i>	
1912 <i>A Son of the Sun</i>	
1912 <i>Smoke Bellew</i>	
1913 <i>The Night-Born</i>	



Beauty Ranch

Jack London's Beauty Ranch is the legacy of London's passion for the land. In 1905, Jack bought the first of several ranches on Sonoma Mountain in Glen Ellen, California. Using proceeds from his prolific writing career he acquired adjoining parcels over several years and expanded his ranch, also known as the Ranch of Good Intentions. The Cottage, the Winery Ruins, the Silos, Barns and Pig Palace are all remnants of Jack and Charmian life and work on the ranch.

By 1913 London owned 1400 acres on the slopes of the mountain and by 1916 employed nearly fifty workers who engaged in building, farming, and tending prize livestock. Self-taught and inventive, London sought to improve current farming methods by using common sense, research, and concepts gleaned from his world travels. Visitors to the ranch today will see examples of his ingenuity and foreshadowing of organic and biodynamic methods which are popular today.

"I am rebuilding worn-out hillside lands that were worked out and destroyed by our wasteful California pioneer farmers. I believe the soil is our one indestructible asset, and by green manures, nitrogen-gathering cover crops, animal manure, rotation of crops, proper tillage and draining, I am getting results which the Chinese have demonstrated for forty centuries." ~Jack London 1915

Jack bought his first parcel, the 130-acre Hill Ranch, in 1905. Later purchases included the LaMotte Ranch, Caroline Kohler Ranch, Kohler and Frohling Ranch, the Kohler and Frohling buildings parcel, and his last purchase in 1913 of the Freund Ranch. The total size of the ranch amounted to approximately 1402 acres.

Jack developed his ranch during the last five years of his life, with peak growth occurring in 1915 and 1916. His most noted efforts included the breeding of English Shire horses and Duroc Jersey pigs. He worked at restoring the soil by terracing the hillsides, planting cover crops to be plowed under for nitrogen, and introducing composted and liquid manure. Additions to the Ranch which occurred during Jack's life included a stone barn, the stallion barn, manure pit, the Pig Palace, two silos, the Wolf House, a smoke house, and the study addition to the cottage.

"I had noticed the way the soil was washed down the hillsides by rains and I determined to prevent that, which I did by grading the land, making it over into rolling contours and abrupt terraces. But the big thing about it is that by these new contours I keep the moisture in the soil." ~Jack London, 1916

Jack's beloved stepsister, Eliza, move to the ranch in 1911 to better execute her role as ranch superintendent. She continued in that capacity until she died in 1939. Eliza built the house on the knoll that can be seen from Charmian's sleeping porch. There are many letters between Jack and Eliza, written while Jack was traveling, which discuss the endless projects and details of the ranch. Eliza was the most important person on the ranch. She carefully and efficiently implemented Jack's wishes.



Interpretation Points for discussion –

- Interpretive Panel near the Kohler & Frohling Sherry Barn
 - Historical aspects of the site: includes the long history of the indigenous people of the area; “Miwok Legend has it the name Sonoma (also known as the “Valley of the Moon”) derives from an indigenous word for “many moons.” What’s true, however, is that indigenous tribes lived here for 12,000 years before the Spanish, Mexicans and Americans arrived, and the name Sonoma may actually stem from “noma”--a Mayakmah word for town. Attracted by the good soil, sun, water, abundant game, fish, wild oats, berries, acorns and other natural bounty, early peoples Eventually, they numbered some 5,000 people across a number of tribes: from the coast, Miwoks; in the north near the Mayacamas Mountain Range dwelled Wintuns, Wapo and Miyakmahs; in the lower Valley, Pomo; near the edge of San Pablo Bay, Koskiwok; and in the southeast corner, Patwins. They lived in long, multi-family grass- and tule-thatched huts with communal cooking areas. Life focused on gathering and preparing food and tribal celebrations--religious and otherwise. The tribes traded among themselves, cleared land (by burning) to expose game and soaked in the Valley’s profuse hot springs.” <http://www.sonomavalley.com/about/history-of-sonoma-valley/twelve-thousand-years-of-paradise/>
 - Biographical Points: Jack spent his early life living on farms in the East Bay area and was familiar with agricultural life.
 - Philosophical Points: Jack’s farming ideas and agrarian vision for the Beauty Ranch. “I go into farming because my philosophy and research have taught me to recognize the fact that a return to the soil is the basis of economics ... I see my farm in terms of the world, and the world in terms of my farm.” – Jack London
- Interpretive Panel between the stone barns
 - Jack had 2 barns for his Shire draft horses; 1 for his stallions and 1 for his mares.
 - Sustainable farming methods use natural manure instead of chemicals to fertilize the soil.
 - Manure from the 2 barns was collected and then spread over the fields as fertilizer.
- Interpretive Panel next to the spineless cactus patch
 - Experimental agriculture is known today as sustainable farming. Jack strived to heal the over-farmed land here and researched in the latest methods of the day. He also looked to the ancient farming practices of the Chinese as inspiration for his more environmentally friendly ideas. Some successful farming experiments of Jack’s include terraced hillsides, crop rotation, cover crops (nitrogen fixers), and manure—based fertilizers. Some of his failed experiments include spineless cactus for cattle feed and the eucalyptus tree crop for lumber.
 - Jack worked with horticulturist Luther Burbank and the UC Davis School of Agriculture.
- Kohler & Frohling stone distillery building
 - Jack preferred to engage in many of the early 20th century farming practices using the horse-drawn equipment on display in the building. Items include hay mower, hay rake, soil compacter, and water truck.
 - Can compare these historic farming practices from 100 years ago to those in use today; commercial agriculture (“agribusiness”) versus sustainable agriculture (“organic or green”).

- Interpretive Panel between Cottage and winery ruins
 - Wine grapes have been planted on the surrounding hillsides since the 1850's.
 - 1862 – the original 4-room footprint of the cottage and the adjacent stone building were built as an office and winery (Tokay Winery).
 - 1873 – Kohler & Frohling Winery added the winery ruins, distillery building, and sherry barn.
 - 1911 – Jack London purchased the property and used these buildings for his ranch operations
- Interpretive Panel overlooking terraced hillsides
 - Terracing done to retain water and prevent erosion of the soil.
 - Jack learned about terracing methods while acting as a war correspondent in Korea.
 - Stepsister Eliza Shepard was ranch superintendent and lived in a house near the cottage.
- Interpretive Panel next to the Pig Palace
 - Jack believed in raising only the finest livestock including his prized Jersey Duroc hogs
 - The unique design was highly practical and efficient and allowed 1 man to feed and care for 200 pigs at a time.
 - Local farmers derisively called this circular stone piggery a “palace Hotel for Pigs.” The nickname, “Pig Palace” has stuck all these years later.
- Interpretive Panel near the concrete silos
 - Beauty Ranch was used for various purposes by the Shepard family after Jack London died:
 - From 1935-1945, this served as a guest ranch with horseback riding on “25 miles of winding trails.”
 - From 1946-1976, it was a dairy ranch with Jersey cows producing milk for yogurt products.
 - From 1977-present, 756 acres of Beauty Ranch were added to the Jack London State Historic Park. Today's park encompasses 1,400 acres.

The London's Cottage

The Cottage was London's principal home on the Beauty Ranch. This wood-framed cottage was purchased by London in 1911 along with the Kohler and Frohling winery buildings. It was enlarged after 1911 until it included some 3,000 square feet of living space. Here he wrote many of his later stories and novels.

In 2006, restoration of the cottage was completed and the re-furnished cottage and Stone Dining Room were opened to visitors. These two buildings capture Jack and Charmian's bohemian lifestyle and close working relationship. The Cottage and Stone Dining Room are open from 12:00pm to 4:00pm and admission is limited to 20 people per tour (fees apply - <http://jacklondonpark.com/jack-london-cottage.html>).

Docents at the Cottage and adjoining Stone Dining Room often interpret the fascinating life of Jack and Charmian London and their unique working relationship. Paintings, sketches and photographs from the London's collection exemplify the vigor, humor and creativity central to life at the ranch. Early 20th century farming, experiments in agronomy and daily farm operations were London's passion, all while maintaining a writing schedule of 1000 words per day. The women in London's life, including his second wife Charmian, who managed his writings, and his step-sister Eliza, who ran the ranch from 1910 to 1939, made it possible for Jack to be prolific, inventive, and adventurous.



Interpretation Points for discussion –

- London's Cottage
 - Originally built in 1862 as home and office for the Tokay Vineyard Winery.
 - Building first enlarged after purchased by Kohler & Frohling in 1873
 - Jack purchased in 1911 and lived there with wife Charmian until his death. He added his own rooms to the cottage's footprint.
- Stone Building - next to Cottage
 - Originally a winery building, Jack and Charmian used it as a kitchen and dining room for their guests and dinner parties. Could seat up to 12 people.
 - The rooms are decorated with replicas of the period except for the 3 large chests that Jack brought back from Korea
- Luggage Room - first room past the entrance
 - Known as the "luggage room," this is where Jack and Charmian would pack their trunks for their many exotic voyages.
 - Contains real artifacts from their voyage through the South Pacific aboard the Snark.
- Guest Bedroom – next to the front door
 - Notice the rope tied to the bed frame. Jack loved to play pranks on his unsuspecting guests and would secretly pull on the rope, making the bed move around, and yell "earthquake!"
- Jack's Study
 - This study was built shortly after Wolf House burned down.
 - Jack wrote several of his later novels in this study, including *The Valley of the Moon* in 1913.
- Jack's Sleeping Porch
 - Jack was not a very good sleeper and would often be awake well into the night. He also had a terrible smoking habit and would smoke from the moment he woke up to the moment he went to sleep.
 - Jack would often waken in the middle of the night with story ideas and liked to write them down immediately and pin them to the line above his bed.
- Charmian's Bedroom
 - Charmian suffered from insomnia and needed to sleep undisturbed. As noted above, Jack's habits were not conducive to good sleep.
 - She also had a sleeping porch where she did a lot of her work editing Jack's manuscripts.
 - Charmian had a fondness for window seats so Jack had one specially built for her in her bedroom.

The House of Happy Walls

The Museum was built by Charmian London and Eliza Shepard, Jack London's step sister, after London's death in 1916. The House of Happy Walls was designed to be a museum as well as Charmian's home. She lived in the house from 1935 until 1952 (when she was not traveling abroad or staying with relatives). Today the House of Happy Walls includes thoughtfully designed exhibits throughout the rooms, with a complete set of first-edition books by Jack London, Charmian's 1901 Steinway piano, and many of the unique crafts and mementos Jack and Charmian collected on their travels around the world. The house is similar to the Wolf House in some ways - the Spanish-style roof tiles and walls of field stone, for example - but it is much smaller and more formal.

One of several compelling exhibits tells the story of their ill-fated Cruise of the Snark, giving visitors a glimpse into the exciting adventures of Jack and Charmian London. It was very important to Charmian that Jack's legacy live on and this house was intended to be a place to showcase Jack London's life, accomplishments, and dreams.

"...I am begging you now, with all my heart, not to let the world forget that he laid his hand upon the hills of California with the biggest writing of all his writing and imagination and wisdom...just don't let all who listen and read and run, forget Jack London's biggest dream." ~Charmian London, 1916



The Wolf House Ruins

Jack London wrote so many books about wolves and dogs that his friend George Sterling gave him the nickname 'The Wolf'. So when Jack started to build his dream house in 1911, it was only fitting that people would call it the 'Wolf House'. However, Jack simply called it the "big house."

This beautiful and functional house was to be Jack and Charmian's permanent ancestral home. It featured all of the modern conveniences of the day, including heat, hot water, and electricity

Jack and Charmian never got to live in their home because one hot summer night in August 1913, spontaneous combustion started a fire in the house. Nobody was living near the house so the fire was quite advanced before anyone became aware of it. The Londons were sleeping in the Cottage about a half mile away and were awakened by a farm worker who saw the red glow in the sky. They got on their horses and rode to their beloved dream house. By the time they got there, the house was completely engulfed in flames and beyond saving. Although Jack vowed to rebuild the house, he did not live long enough to accomplish it. Today, we have a beautiful ruin.

"All I wanted was a quiet place in the country to write and loaf in, and get out of nature that something which we all need, only the most of us don't know it. This is to be no summer-residence proposition, but a home all the year round. I am anchoring good and solid, and anchoring for keeps."
~Jack London 1913



Interpretation Points for discussion –

- Design and Construction
 - The architect was famed, Albert Farr, one of the very first to earn an architecture license in California in 1901.
 - Construction began in 1911.
 - The building design was comprised of 15,000 sq. ft. with 26 rooms, 9 fire places, a large courtyard reflection pool, library, study, and a giant party room (Jack's "Stag Room").
 - Was built to be earthquake proof; rested on a huge floating cement slab.
 - Jack wanted to build a house that, "God willing, would last 1,000 years."
- Materials
 - Almost all of the building materials were sourced locally, or on-site.
 - Redwood trees were cut and used as pillars, with their bark still attached.
 - The large stones are maroon volcanic rock, quarried from Bocca's Quarry, located on the Bouverie Audubon Preserve on Hwy. 12.
 - Roof constructed of Spanish red clay tiles
- Destruction of Wolf House
 - Wolf House was nearly complete and the move-in date was only a few weeks away.
 - The structure, save the stone façade and supports, was completely burned and destroyed on August 22, 1913. This occurred around 2am.
 - There were many rumors around arson as the cause. At first, Jack even thought this might be the reason for the destruction. The other popular theory was spontaneous combustion. It was well over 100° that day.
 - In 1995, a forensic research team investigated the site and determined the cause of the fire was, in fact, spontaneous combustion. Workers had been treating the woodwork with a combination of linseed oil and kerosene and had left the soiled rags in a large pile on the floor of the dining room. The pile of rags spontaneously caught fire and burned for several hours before it was noticed. By the time Jack and others arrived at the scene, it was too late to save the house.

Jack and Charmian's Gravesite

During the last few years of his life, Jack London's health declined rapidly from the effects of failing kidneys. On November 22, 1916, at only forty years old, Jack London fell into a brief coma and died. His death certificate states that the cause was "Uremia following renal colic."

After cremation in Oakland and a brief memorial service at the ranch, Jack's ashes were laid to rest under a large rock on a small knoll overlooking the Valley of the Moon, which is the grave site of the pioneer Greenlaw children, David, who died in 1876 and Lillie, who died in 1877.

Jack knew the small knoll which is located along the trail between the Museum and the Wolf House Ruin. He once remarked to his wife Charmian and his sister Eliza:

"I wouldn't mind if you laid my ashes on the knoll where the Greenlaw children are buried. And roll over me a red boulder from the ruins of the Big House."

On November 26, 1916, in a silent ceremony, Charmian London placed her husband's ashes on the chosen knoll under a large rock from the Wolf House. After she passed away in 1955, Charmian's ashes were laid under the same rock, next to Jack.

I would rather be ashes than dust. I would rather that my spark should burn out in a brilliant blaze than it should be stifled by dry-rot. I would rather be a superb meteor, every atom of me in magnificent glow, than a sleepy and permanent planet. The proper function of man is to live, not to exist. I shall not waste my days in trying to prolong them. I shall use my time. ~Jack London, 1916



Interpretation Points for discussion –

- Jack's death
 - Jack died in the sleeping porch of his cottage at his Beauty Ranch on November 22, 1916, at age 40 from kidney failure.
 - While in the tropics, Jack contracted Yaws (bacterial infection causing open sores; mosquitoes) and used a crème containing mercury chloride to treat them. This severely damaged his kidneys.
- Pioneer children
 - Jack was touched by the graves of these children. Perhaps it was the connection to the young boy David who died the year Jack was born. Jack also spent his youth working hard on a farm and felt a connection there.
 - Jack also didn't want them to be buried up there alone so he requested his ashes be placed near their graves.
- Jack's grave
 - The gravesite boulder used was not actually employed in the construction of Wolf House.
 - Charmian also had her ashes laid to rest under the same boulder. She died in 1955 at the age of 84.
 - The ashes of one of Jack's favorite dogs, Possum, are also laid to rest here. Jack had a deep love of animals.

Appendix

This section contains activity ideas that can enhance your self-guided experience. The suggested activities range from upper elementary (ES), middle school (MS) and high school (HS). The education department at Jack London State Historic Park is always interested in feedback from our visiting teachers. We welcome any creative ideas you have for new activities or questions and requests on what you would like to see in terms of programming. For any questions, ideas and/or concerns regarding tours and programs, please contact Kristina Ellis at kellis@jacklondonpark.com.

List of suggested lessons and activities:

1. Pig Farming Thought Experiment – Elementary/MS
2. Literature Circle walk – MS/HS

Pig Farmer

Thought Experiment

Audience: ES and MS

Next Gen. Science Connections: 5-ESS3-1. Obtain and combine information about ways individual communities use science ideas to protect the Earth's resources and environment.

5-ESS3.C - Human Impacts on Earth Systems; Human activities in agriculture, industry, and everyday life have had major effects on the land, vegetation, streams, ocean, air, and even outer space. But individuals and communities are doing things to help protect Earth's resources and environments. (5-ESS3-1)

Materials: Journal or blank paper, pencils

Procedure: Once you have had the opportunity as a group to learn a bit about Jack's ranch and his efforts to find more effective and sustainable farming techniques, gather the students together in an area where they can draw or write in a journal (picnic tables are good). You will need to conduct this **BEFORE** you take them to the Pig Palace.

Divide students into small groups of 3-4. Present this thought challenge to them:

Consider - You are a farmer with 200 pigs and piglets to feed and care for. You only have an acre of land to keep them on. How will you house them? How will you protect them from predators or keep from wondering off? How much time would be involved and how many laborers would you need in order to make your small pig farm successful? What impacts would it have on the local environment?

Challenge – In your group, think about a design for your small pig farm. What type of materials or structures would you incorporate? How many people would you need to run it? How would you successfully feed all your pigs and how many hours a day would you need to do it? How much of an impact would your design have on the environment?

Give students time to talk and think this through. Have them draw pictures or diagrams of their pig farm. Once they have all had a chance to complete their designs, go around and let each group share. Following the group-share, you can briefly talk about each group's ideas and reflect on how some design elements might be combined or expanded.

Then take the students to the piggery ("Pig Palace"). Before reading any of the panels or sharing information with them, let them explore the structures and try to figure out, *on their own*, what each of the structures was for and how they worked. Have them share some of their ideas as a group. Together, you can then unfold the story of Jack's piggery and how **one** farm laborer was able to care for, and feed, up to 217 pigs and piglets at a time. - Talk about the efficiency and sustainability of the design and ask students how they might change their own designs after seeing Jack London's Pig Palace.



Background info for teachers

The Pig Palace, (so named by a San Francisco newspaper reporter astounded by the \$3000 cost to build) was designed by London and built in 1915. Laid out in a circle to save labor, the piggery's central feed house is surrounded by 17 pens. Each family of Duroc Jersey hogs had its own area; a courtyard with feed and water troughs, roofed sleeping area, and a fenced outdoor run. The piggery was designed to efficiently care for prized breeding pigs in a sanitary environment.

The innovative design is explained by Milo Shepard, London's great nephew who was born on the ranch and lived there all his life:

“The feed house was two stories, and the feed was put up in bins in the upper story, and all he had to do was pull a lever. There was a stove so that he could heat water and build a little fire in there, a coil--sort of like a flash heater--and then mix it. The doors on either side were so he didn't have to walk around. He could feed half out of one door and half out of the other. It was all drained and fixed so that it could be hosed out every day. The farrowing (birthing) pens had iron pipes up about eight inches, eight or ten inches, out from the wall, so that when the sow lay down she wouldn't crush the little ones against the wall. The little ones had space.”



Adventure Writing

Book Club Challenge

Audience: MS



Common Core Connections: RL7.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text. RL7.4. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of rhymes and other repetitions of sounds on a specific verse or stanza of a poem or section of a story or drama. W7.3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

Materials: Copies of your chosen Jack London story/book, blank paper or journals, pencils, challenge questions (on index cards or strips of paper)

Procedure: Adventure writing can be a fun way to turn a personal experience into a well-structured narrative. Taking inspiration from one of America's greatest adventure writers, students will go on their own journey through the park and journal, illustrate, or write brief narratives about their personal experience. Before your visit, have your students read one of Jack London's short stories. An adventure story is preferable! The list of London's books and stories is provided on pg. 9. You will want to divide your students into groups 3-4.

While at the park, find a comfortable place to sit and have students get into their small groups. Together, briefly review the story/book you read in class. Then, in their smaller groups, students will effectively be creating their own "book clubs." Employing the use of literature circles, and guided by specific challenge questions, each group will analyze the story in order to identify key words and transitional phrases, distinguish the pacing, and debate points of view.

Steps: This activity takes place in two stages; the literature circle (warm-up) stage and the "book club" stage. For the lit. circles, each student should be given a specific task or "job."

1. **Literature Circle** Warm-up stage: As students are discussing the story together, have them write down any questions and comments that come up for them on a half sheet of paper. These half-sheets will be given to the "question asker" to read out loud later. Once they have had a chance to discuss their own thoughts and questions, have the students write, or choose, a couple of good questions to pose to the other literature circles during the "book club" portion of this activity. In the last 15 minutes of this segment, hand the "question asker" the challenge questions. Suggested "jobs" are below:
 - a. Question Asker: This person asks the questions that the literature circle members have written down. You will also hand this student the challenge questions towards the end of their discussion.
 - b. Illustrator: Draws pictures to represent elements from story or class discussion.
 - c. Time Keeper: Keeps track of the time; ensures everyone participates.
 - d. Passage Picker: Finds key passages to back-up student discussion or raise new questions.
 - e. Quote Catcher: Finds key quotes to illustrate a point or generate discussion.

2. **Book Club** stage: This is really a wrap-up for the literature circle discussions and allows the entire class to talk together. Once each of the lit. circles feel they have answered all three challenge questions, bring everyone back into one large group to address the challenge questions as a whole class. This new group will be the “book club.” As the leader, you can take on the “question asker” role to bring everything together.



Challenge Questions

1. Find the theme of this story – (a theme is the central idea in a piece of writing or other work of art)

2. How was the pace? (Narrative pace determines how quickly or how slowly the writer takes a reader through a story. Did the story move slowly or was it fast paced?)

3. Authors can use words to create a certain mood or include humor. What mood was Jack trying to create in this story? Which words or phrases convey that?

Additional questions you can add for the larger book club groups: • What do you think of this adventure? • Do you like the way Jack London told his story? What was his point of view? • Would you change the way it was told if it was your story? How?

ADVENTURE SEEKER’S HIKE (at least 60 min.) – Now that the students have had time to read and analyze an adventure story, hit the trail for an adventure of your own. You can lead students down to the Wolf House to explore the ruins and then visit the gravesite. Once you have read the panels and learned the story of these ruins, let students have some personal/silent time to reflect in these spaces. Encourage them to take notes, draw pictures, and journal their personal observations while thinking about how they might craft their own short stories. A bit of silent walking/sitting is encouraged and a good time for students to journal their observations. These notes and experiences can lead to some inspired writing later in class!