

NOTE: June 14, 2016. This is the text from the blog that I took down after leaving Pacific Bridges in June 2009. It's now going to be very useful as I move forward with Learning to Write / Writing to Learn: 10 Core Competencies.

FEBRUARY 2009

WELCOME!

This blog is being created for the students of Pacific Bridges Alternative High School in Brookings, Oregon. Their teacher, Ted Burdett, has made it possible for them to work with Bette Moore of *Leadership 2020*, in order to earn English credits toward high school graduation.

Please feel free to collaborate with us as we move forward. At this point three students are reading Jack London's *The Call of the Wild* and we are brainstorming ideas about how they will communicate their mastery of the novel in order to receive high school credit.

We are creating this blog for three reasons:

- First, it is specifically designed to help students develop higher order thinking skills using one novel as their focus.
- Second, it teaches structures and introduces habits of mind that will help students understand the novel form and apply to any other books they read.
- Finally, it may help us teachers begin to catch up to our students in this brave new world of technology!

Hope you will join us and enjoy the ride!

Bette Moore, Ted Burdett, and the Students of Pacific Bridges

[Comments \(3\)](#)


1. *Ricky Kolb* — February 18, 2009 @ [1:03 pm](#) | [Edit This](#)

Well hello there Bette!

The website is working out great, Keep it up.

I have learned quite a bit from this novel not just about a dog but Life its self.

Call of the wild to me, Was a wake up call.


2.  *Dylan Kemp* — February 18, 2009 @ [1:04 pm](#) | [Edit This](#)

Salutations, Bette!

I had a wonderful experience reading this novel. *Call of The Wild* is an excellent book! It helped me seek out the inner animal stored deep inside of me. One day I will be free like Buck and roam the Yukon with my wolf brethren.

Keep it real!

- Dylan

3.  *bette* — February 18, 2009 @ [7:12 pm](#) | [Edit This](#)

Hey there!

I think I'm getting the hang of this! 😊 I figured out what an "AVATAR" is . . . and think mine will be a picture of me on a beach. I'm not sure how to load one for each of you but we can play with that and figure it out. You might be able to do it yourselves . . . I'm not sure yet.

So . . . back to the book! I'm glad you both liked it. It sounds like you really got the point! It was great seeing you both in person this week after being out of town for a month.

I won't be coming in tomorrow – but you have a lot to do with the "A and B Vocabulary Lists" and the BLANK PAGES for each chapter. (I guess you only needed 7!) It will be fun to see how you decide to "summarize" each chapter. You have a lot of choices so have fun!

I'll see you again on Friday!

Bette

Call of the Wild

Choices

In order to earn high school credit for reading *The Call of the Wild*, you will need to complete a project that will count as the equivalent of a "term paper." This page will list ideas for projects, but you are free to come up with your own ideas.

- Compile a *Keys to Literature* Notebook
- Write, direct, and produce a Readers' Theatre presentation of one of your favorite scenes in the book.
- Create a storyboard version of the novel that could be used for the basis of a screenplay or comic book.
- If you like to draw, produce a sketchbook that illustrates the dogs and/or specific scenes in the book.
- Write a sequel.
- Think of your own ideas . . . poetry? art? games?

Project explanations will soon be posted on this site. A sample "Keys to Literature Notebook" is at Pacific Bridges. PDF files are available by emailing info@leadership2020.org.

Call of the Wild

[Chapter Summaries](#)

[Edit This](#)

Summarizing is one of the most important skills that we can learn! Every chapter in a novel covers a lot of information, but it's possible to answer the question "What happened in this chapter?" in just a few sentences.

However . . . if you would rather be a little more creative, there are many ways you can "SUMMARIZE" a chapter. I'm listing a few ideas below . . . but you can use your imagination and come up with your own. Someone needs to be able to look at (or listen to?) your summary and fully understand what happened in the chapter.

- Illustrate each "scene" in the chapter – with captions.
- Do a "comic book" style storyboard for the chapter
- Write a "Found Poem." We will talk about how to do this later. It's a great way to summarize while sharing the action and emotions that are packed into a book like this one.
- Use a combination of pictures, words, and symbols to illustrate what Buck went through in this chapter. It would be interesting to do this inside an outline of Buck's body.
- Write a song? Why not, Dylan??? You want to be in a band . . . and I can just hear the "Ballad of Buck" when it hits the airwaves. 😊

- NOW YOU THINK OF SOME! You don't have to do the same one for each chapter. Have fun with this!
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- OR, of course, you can just write a one-paragraph SUMMARY of the chapter. (This is not as easy as it sounds!)

Bette

Call of the Wild

[Character Discussion](#)

[Edit This](#)

February 18, 2009 – 5 PM

Hi Ricky and Dylan . . .

As I told you at school today, I'm going to focus on SUMMARIZING and VOCABULARY as we study *Call or the Wild*. My plan is to give you some tools for studying characters when we do the next book. However, as I also told you today . . . in order for you to get graduation credit for this novel, you will each have to come up with a "PRODUCT" to replace the packet on the *Diary of Anne Frank*.

As you think about the "CHOICES" that are listed on this Blog (first page) – you will see that those projects will require that you spend time thinking about the **Character Traits** – both of the dogs and of the humans in the story. Since you are both interested in movies, theatre, and acting – I hope you decide to work together on a Readers' Theatre production of at least one scene from the book!

Or, of course, you can do something else! Your choice! 😊

Bette

Call of the Wild

[Dialectic](#)

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This page is for talking about anything you would like to add to the discussion. It can be about the book – or you can share experiences that might relate to what you have read or what others have written. Remember that the internet is a public forum . . . so make sure your comments are appropriate. If you don't want to use your real name – that's ok . . . just make sure I know who you are!

Bette

Call of the Wild

[Theme Discussion](#)

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Many *themes* run through a classic novel like *The Call of the Wild*. That's why you can read it many times and each time learn more – about the book, the author . . . and about *yourself!* On this page you can express your thoughts about what Jack London was really saying in this book. Was it just a simple story about a dog . . . or can the lessons that Buck learned be applied to other situations?

Bette

Call of the Wild

[Vocabulary](#)

[Edit This](#)

Ricky and Rebecca have already sent me some unfamiliar words. You don't have to look them up right now – just keep *underlining* them in the text as you read! I'll post the PDF file for the "A, B, and C List" assignment soon.

Ricky . . . pick THREE of the words you sent me that you would like to begin using in your own writing and speaking! Then I'll give you the directions for the "C List"!

Hope to hear back from you!

Bette