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White Fang by Jack London

A Paper

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَقُلِ اعْمَلُوا فَسَيَرَى اللَّهُ عَمَلَكُمْ وَرَسُولُهُ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَسَتُرَدُّونَ إِلَىٰ عَالَمِ
الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ فَيُنَبِّئُكُم بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ

صدق الله العلي العظيم

(التوبة، الآية 105)

Dedication

To the owner of a fragrant biography , for he had the first credit in attaining my education (my beloved father), God prolong his life.

To those who set me on the path of life, made me calm, and took care of me until I became old (my dear mother).

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Abstract

This research paper is a thematic study about *White Fang*. The present study consists of an introduction which includes a brief summary about the life of the author and his works. Besides, it has two sections. The first one will include the plot of *White Fang*, the second section will include some important themes of *White Fang* like survival of the fittest, nature versus nurture, suffering and domestication.

Keywords: survival of the fittest, nature versus nurture, suffering and domestication.

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Introduction

Jack London was born 1876 in America and died in 1916. He faced the bitterness of life, and took up various jobs. He was a famous American novelist, journalist and social activist. It is said that he committed suicide because of the crisis he was in, and because of his diseases. *The Call of the Wild and White Fang* was the most famous work as well as the short stories "To Build a Fire", "An Odyssey of the North", and "Love of Life". He also wrote about the South Pacific in stories such as "The Pearls of Parlay", and "The Heathen". (Jack London, 2022)

The story of "White Fang" begins with a world view about a world of wolves. The events revolve around a wolf from the moment of birth until the wolf grows up. His mother is a half-dog, half-wolf and his father is a real wolf. He has four brothers, but they all die of starvation. As well as his father, One Eye, dead in a fight while he was looking for food for the mother and her puppy, Fang. The "White Fang" and his mother remain alone fighting with the cruel conditions of nature. (Super Summary, n.d.)

One day, White Fang gets trapped by an Indian tribe and he knew her mother real name is Kiche and she has been living with humans. They start to live with the Indian tribe and White Fang acquires lots of life's experiences. White Fang also gained a lot of experiences of life when he is traded for whisky by his master. His new owner, Beauty Smith makes White Fang fight with other dogs and White Fang is almost killed by a bulldog before a man called Weeden Scott saves him. Then a White Fang starts to live with Scott's family when Scott takes him to his home and lives a happy life. (Ibid)

Section One

White Fang's Summary

White Fang, written by Jack London, tells a story of life in the wilderness, human behavior and how it affects the formation of the animals, their behavior, and habitat. Two men are out in the wild of the north. Their dogs disappear as they are lured by a she-wolf and eaten by the pack. They only have three bullets left and Bill, one of the men, uses them to try to save one of their dogs; he misses and is eaten with the dog. Only Henry and two dogs are left; he makes a fire, trying to drive away the wolves. They draw in close, and he is almost eaten, saved only by a company of men who were traveling nearby. (*White Fang* | Novel by London | Britannica," 2019)

The wolves are in the midst of a famine. They continue on, lead by several wolves alongside the she-wolf, and when they finally find food the pack starts to split up. The she-wolf mates with one of the wolves and has a litter of pups. Only one survives after several more famines, and he grows strong and is a feisty pup. (*White Fang: Full Book Summary*, n.d.)

They come to an Indian village where the she-wolf's (who is actually half-wolf, half-dog) master is. He catches her again and White Fang, her pup, stays nearby. Soon, she is sold to another Indian, while White Fang stays with Gray Beaver, her master. The other dogs of the village terrorize White Fang, especially one named Lip-lip. (Ibid)

White Fang becomes more and more vicious, encouraged by his master. He kills other dogs. Gray Beaver goes to Fort Yukon to trade and discovers whiskey. White Fang is passed into the hands of Beauty Smith,

a monster of a man. He fights other dogs until he meets his match in a bulldog and is saved only by a man named Scott. (Super Summary, n.d.)

Ultimately, White Fang wins the affection of Scott's family because of his extreme intelligence (for example, he leads some men to help his injured master) and also because of his performing an act of bravery by risking his life to save Judge Scott from being murdered.(Ibid)

Section Two

Thematic Study in *White Fang*

1-Survival of the Fittest

This theme demonstrates that any living being in order to survive must be strong, cunning, and adaptable. *White Fang's* Wild Northland is a harsh place, where the survival for the strongest. The writer illustrates this struggle by showing Bill and Henry's sled dog team mushing across the still and frozen Klondike. As they face that bitter cold, they are the only signs of life. In addition to the death that surrounds them, their sled tows a coffin, it indicates that there is no survival for the weak and that life may end at any moment. This novel further highlights the uncertainty of life, as well as its fragility. In our novel *White Fang*, from an early age, learns that nature's law is simple—"eat, or be eaten." He realized that through hunting, he is either eating the prey or devouring it more powerful and bigger animals. Gray Beaver and his Indian ancestors must migrate when food runs short in one area and becomes abundant in another. Similarly, both Kiche and *White Fang* return to the wilderness when famine hits the Indian camp. (Feller, 2000:76)

The existence of the *White Fang* is characterized by a strong will to live. As a puppy, he longs for life. When attacked by a bulldog, *White Fang* fights for a very long time. Finally, after his near-fatal battle with Jim Hall, he shows *White Fang's* recovery as his stubborn will and ambition to live overcomes all obstacles in the path of life, making him a true survivor in his ploy. *White Fang* takes three bullets but is miraculously able to survive. *White Fang's* ability is obvious throughout adaptation to any new circumstances. He learns how to fight the other dogs, he learns to obey new masters, he learns to fight under the evil guidance of Beauty. The writer appreciates this will throughout his

novel. He introduced a moral lesson for his readers. Both humans and animals must struggle to survive. The struggle for life is most powerfully felt in the battles between rivals. (GradeSaver, n.d).

2-Nature versus Nurture

This theme is one of the prominent themes in *White Fang*. The first character that represents this theme clearly in this novel is White Fang. He is adventurous, curious, brave, and happy. Although he is living in hardship during the famine, he always feels content in his life and fulfilled by his role in the wild. But his personality changes due to the circumstances. With Gray Beaver, White Fang is separated from his mother and beaten into submission. Although he gets the benefit from food and shelter, White Fang lives in isolation and is tormented by the other dogs. Then he faced more difficult circumstances with Beauty Smith, who terrorizes and abuses him to prepare him for dogfights. White Fang lives in "primordial savagery," turned practically evil because of the abuse. (Burgos:2018:303)

White Fang is frequently compared with other "evil" characters in the novel. Beauty Smith, for example, has been turned into a "monstrosity" because nature was bothering him. Similarly, Jim Hall was made evil because of the beatings he received in prison: The more he fought hard, the more cruel society became with him and the only effect of harshness was to make him fiercer. Throughout the novel, White Fang is described as a lump of clay being modelled by his surroundings. While the reason to return to his nature first created his personality, his environment and the "nurture" he received shaped the direction of his behaviour. When his environment changes at the Weeden house, the once destructively evil wolf is remodelled into another creature capable of companionship and love. (Doctorow, 1998: 108)

3- Suffering

Life is pain, as someone smarter than us once noted, and for White Fang, it means a lot of pain. Characters suffer so they don't have to die, they suffer while competing and they suffer as a part of nature's grand design. It stinks, but there's no way around it .

Throughout the novels many characters suffer. For example; Famines cause wild wolves to attack men and their sled dogs, led by the she-wolf Kiche. Bill does not make it, but Henry does after another group shows up. The she-wolf Kiche mates with One-Eye and only one pup survives due to the famines, his name is White Fang. Besides, White Fang is gravely injured by a bulldog in the ring and a man named Weedon Scott saves him. (White Fang Suffering | Shmoop, n.d.)

Scott rehabilitates him, tames him, and White Fang comes to love Scott and his family. For White Fang, at least, his suffering eventually ends: and not in the grim downer of a way that it ends for so many other people. London really wants us to know what a happy ending feels like, and he can't write one for White Fang unless his poor little puppy dog goes through the ringer first. (Ibid)

4-Domestication

Domestication is one of the most important topics in *White Fang* where we see how *White Fang* transforms from a bitter and hateful beast into a best friend for human. He is born a wild wolf, becomes a morose and aloof pariah in the Indian camp, is trained as a vicious fighting dog under Beauty Smith, and finally transforms into a loving and loyal companion dog to Weedon Scott. Under the commandments Scott, a clear change in behavior of *White Fang* in order to harmonise with the society in which he lives. (*White Fang: White Fang 's Journey to Domestication in Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories during the 1890s Klondike Gold* (Paperback), n.d)

Above all, *White Fang's* unswerving devotion to his master marks him as a domesticated creature. That *White Fang* nearly sacrifices his life to defend Judge Scott against the maniacal Jim Hall demonstrates this transition. In this instance, *White Fang* exercises his natural instincts not to hunt or fend for himself, but in order to defend and service his human owners. Because *White Fang* selflessly fights for his human family, he shows himself to be a loyal and devoted canine. Fathering a litter of pups with Collie, a domesticated animal, also confirms his place in the domestic sphere. Although Scott trains *White Fang* well, his natural instincts are still present. London gives *White Fang* various names, a "tame wolf," a "Blessed wolf," and "the sleeping wolf," all of which suggest that *White Fang's* inner beast, though trained, lies dormant. In this way, London reminds us that within every domesticated dog there lies a trace of the wild. (LitCharts, n.d).

Conclusion

White Fang takes three bullets but is miraculously able to survive. *White Fang's* ability is obvious throughout adaptation to any new circumstances. He learns how to fight the other dogs, he learns to obey new masters, he learns to fight under the evil guidance of Beauty. Ultimately, *White Fang* wins the affection of Scott's family because of his extreme intelligence. He also an act of bravery because of his performing by risking his life to save Judge Scott from being murdered. The writer appreciates this will throughout his novel. He introduced a moral lesson for his readers. Both humans and animals must struggle to survive. The struggle for life is most powerfully felt in the battles between rivals.

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