

- 16 Read the story *Brown Wolf* and say where the dog came from and which of his masters he loved best.

Brown Wolf

(after Jack London)

Walt Irvine ['wɔlt 'ə:vɪn], Mrs. Johnson ['dʒɔnsən], Skiff Miller ['skɪf 'mɪlə], the Klondike ['klɒndaɪk], California [kælə'fɔ:niə], Sonoma [sə'nɒmə], Alaska [ə'læskə]

Walt Irvine and his wife loved their dog very much; perhaps this was because it had been such a task to win his love. It had been no easy matter when he first came mysteriously out of nowhere to their little mountain cottage. Footsore¹ and hungry, he had killed a rabbit under their very windows, and then crawled away and slept not far from the cottage.

When Walt Irvine and his wife went down to give him a large plate of milk and bread, he began to snarl² at them. A most unfriendly dog he proved to be. He refused to let them put hands on him and met them with a terrible snarl.

But he remained, sleeping and resting, and eating the food they gave him after they put it down at a safe distance and went away. His bad physical condition³ explained why he did not run away.

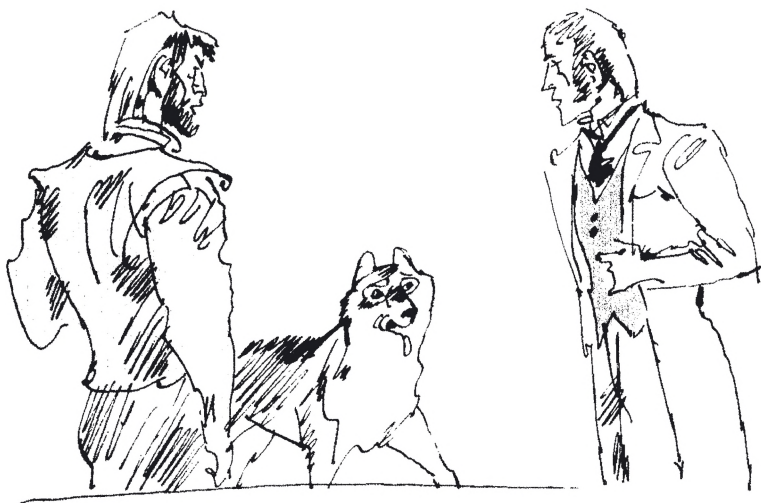
To win him was a problem. Irvine liked problems. He made a metal plate with the words on it: *Return to Walt Irvine, Glen Ellen, Sonoma County⁴, California*, and tied it to the dog's neck.

¹ **footsore** ['futsɔ:] — со стертými лапами

² **to snarl** [sna:l] — рычать; **snarl** — рычание

³ **physical** ['fɪzɪkəl] **condition** — физическое состояние

⁴ **Sonoma County** ['kaunti] — Округ Сонома



They called him Wolf because he looked like a big brown wolf. And he never barked. In all the time they had him he never tried to bark.

When Wolf began to feel better he ran away, but soon was returned to Irvine. Several times Wolf ran away. And always ran north. It seemed that some unknown power drove¹ him north. "The dog's home must be in the North," Irvine thought after Wolf was caught and returned to him again.

Irvine and his wife often thought about the dog's past and about whose dog he was. That the Northland still called him, they knew: for at night when the north wind blew and frost was in the air, Wolf felt restless² and began to howl³.

A year passed. And one day Irvine and his wife were allowed to put hands on Wolf and pat him. It was a great victory.

¹ **to drive (drove, driven)** — *зд.* увлекать, тянуть

² **restless** — беспокойный

³ **to howl [haul]** — выть, завывать

Once a well-built man appeared near their cottage.

“I am trying to find my sister,” the man said to Walt Irvine. “Maybe you know where she lives. Her name is Johnson, Mrs. Johnson.”

“You are not her Klondike brother!” Mrs. Irvine cried, her eyes bright with interest, “about whom we’ve heard so much?”

“Yes, that’s me,” the man answered. “My name is Miller, Skiff Miller.”

At that moment he saw Wolf running up to him. A great wonder came into his face. “Well, that’s a surprise!” he said slowly.

Wolf ran up to the stranger and first smelled his hands, then licked them with his tongue.

Skiff Miller patted the dog’s head, and slowly repeated, “Well, that’s a surprise!”

“Excuse me,” he said the next moment to Walt Irvine and his wife. “I was just greatly surprised, that was all.”

“We are surprised, too,” said Walt Irvine. “We never saw Wolf come up to a stranger before.”

“Is that what you call him — Wolf?” the man asked.

Walter Irvine nodded. “But I can’t understand his friendliness toward you. It is remarkable the way he lets you touch him.”

Just then the dog opened his mouth and barked. It was a loud and joyous bark.

Walt Irvine and his wife looked at each other. The miracle¹ had happened. Wolf had barked.

¹ **miracle** [ˈmɪrəkl] — чудо

“It’s the first time he has ever barked,” Mrs. Irvine said.

“The first time I ever heard him, too,” Miller told her.

The woman smiled at him. “Of course,” she said, “since you have only seen him for five minutes.”

Skiff Miller looked at her sharply. “I thought you understood,” he said. “He’s my dog. His name isn’t Wolf. It is Brown. I’ve been looking for him for three years. He was my lead dog¹ in Alaska. I couldn’t believe my eyes when I saw him. It was too good to be true.”

“But you are not going to take him away with you?” Mrs. Irvine said in despair. “Back into that awful Klondike world of frost and suffering? Why not leave him here? He is happy. He’ll never suffer from cold and hunger. And what can you offer him in that northland life?”

“Plenty of work,” Miller said sharply, “work without end, and frost, and hardships. But he likes it. He is used to it. He knows that life. He was born to it and brought up to it. That’s where the dog belongs, and that’s where he’ll be happiest.” Miller thought a little, then said:

“I’ll tell you what I’ll do. We’ll leave it to the dog to choose. You’ll stay right here. I’ll say good-bye and walk off. If he wants to stay, he can stay. If he wants to come with me, let him come. Only you must play fair². I won’t call him to come, and don’t call him to come back.”

Miller shook hands with Walter Irvine, turned and went slowly away.

Wolf watched him go, then quickly ran after him, caught his hand between his teeth and tried to make him stop.

¹ **lead dog** — собака-вожак

² **to play fair** [fɛə] — играть честно

Then Wolf raced back to where Walter Irvine stood. He jumped about excitedly and nervously; he wanted to be in two places at the same time, with the old master and the new.

Then suddenly he turned his head, and looked after the old master. He waited a long minute, silently, quietly, without movement, then made up his mind and ran after him.

Do You Understand The Story?

17 *Choose the correct ending to each sentence.*

- 1 The Irvines loved their dog very much because:
 - it had been such a task to win his love.
 - Wolf was a very beautiful dog.
 - Wolf was faithful to them.
- 2 The dog remained at the Irvines' because:
 - he was footsore and hungry.
 - the new masters gave him food.
 - he liked his new home and his new masters.
- 3 When the dog saw Miller, he began to bark because:
 - he always barked at strangers.
 - he had recognized his old master.
 - he did not like the way Miller spoke with his new masters.
- 4 The dog jumped about excitedly and nervously because:
 - he had already made up his mind to follow his Old Master.
 - he wanted to be in two places at the same time, with the old master and the new.
 - Skiff Miller and Walt Irvine did not call him, turned and went slowly away from him.

18 *Answer the questions.*

- 1 How did the dog appear at the Irvines' place? What did he look like then?
- 2 How did the dog show he was unfriendly?
- 3 What did Walt Irvine call the dog? Why?
- 4 Was it difficult for Walt Irvine and his wife to win the dog's love?
- 5 How did the dog behave when he saw the stranger near the cottage?
- 6 What surprised the Irvines in the dog's behaviour?
- 7 Did Mrs. Irvine want to return the dog to Skiff Miller? How did she feel about the dog?
- 8 How did the stranger decide to act?
- 9 Was it easy for the dog to decide which master to choose?

19 *Say how Walt Irvine and his wife won the dog's love.*

How Good Is Your English?

(see pp 40—41)

What Do You Think?

20 *Say why it was so.*

- 1 It was a difficult task to win the dog's love.
- 2 Wolf always ran away towards the north.
- 3 Walt Irvine and his wife were greatly surprised at Wolf's strange behaviour.
- 4 Mrs. Irvine was in despair.
- 5 Wolf tried to make Skiff Miller stop and then raced back to where Walt Irvine stood.

21 *Say what you think of Skiff Miller's decision to leave it to the dog to choose a master. Was it a fair decision?*

22 *Try and explain why Wolf chose Skiff Miller.*



How Good Is Your English?



23 Use the proper word from the box.

- 1 It is not an easy for children to do everything well and in time.
- 2 She wished us a journey.
- 3 What's the between New York and Washington?
- 4 I've got no over him — he takes no notice of anything I say.
- 5 In the, people couldn't explain many of the things they saw in their everyday life.
- 6 You could tell from her that she wasn't pleased.
- 7 The writer described a man's life, full of and problems.

distance
task
voice
safe
hardships
power
past

24 **Adjective? Adverb?** Choose the correct word (✓).

- 1 The dog came (mysterious, mysteriously) out of nowhere, footsore and hungry.
It seemed (strange, strangely) that the hungry dog did not take any food.
- 2 When the north wind blew, the dog felt (restless, restlessly).
The dog's new masters were at first surprised that he behaved so (restless, restlessly).
- 3 The dog opened his mouth and began to bark (joyous, joyously).
It was really a loud and (joyous, joyously) bark.
- 4 The dog jumped (excited, excitedly). It was clear he was (nervous, nervously).
Then he waited a long minute (silent, silently) and ran after his old master.

25 Use the correct preposition.

- 1 The dog stoppedthe sound of his master's voice.
- 2 The dog ran up the stranger and first smelled his hands.
- 3 The woman smiledthe stranger's words.
- 4 "You have only seen the dogfive minutes", the woman said.
- 5 "The dog is usedwork, frost and hardships", the man said.
- 6 The woman looked at the strangerinterest.
- 7 It was late autumn, night there was frost in the air.

at
for
to
with

26 a) *Past Indefinite? Past Perfect? Choose the correct form of the verb (✓).*

- 1 They called the dog Wolf because he (looked, had looked) like a big brown wolf.
- 2 When Wolf began to feel better, he (ran, had run) away.
- 3 The Irvines remembered how the dog (appeared, had appeared) at their cottage.
- 4 The dog's new masters understood that Wolf (came, had come) from the north.
- 5 The Irvines were greatly surprised that their dog (barked, had barked). They thought that the miracle (happened, had happened).

b) *Past Indefinite? Future-in-the-Past? Use the correct form of the verb.*

- 1 Mrs. Irvine (be) afraid that the dog (suffer) from cold and hunger in the north.
- 2 Miller (think) that Brown Wolf (be) happy in the north.
- 3 Skiff Miller (believe) that the dog (choose) him.
- 4 Mrs. Irvine (hope) that Miller (not take) the dog away with him.