Prompt: How does Jack London portray Buck in *Call of the Wild*? Does this make London a “nature-faker”?

Remember the process:

- Read the text(s) and prompt.
- Locate the appropriate rubric and review the descriptions of each construct (e.g., Reading: Comprehension of Key Ideas and Details).
- Determine High, Medium, or Low based on which best describes the features of the student writing.
- Locate evidence for the score and write annotations using language from the rubric.
- Meet as a group to review your scores and try to reach consensus.
- Create a group scoring sheet with an agreed upon score (High, Medium, Low) and annotations.

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1 Note: This is an adaptation of the original prompt: Consider *The Call of the Wild* and the author’s depiction of Buck’s relationship with his many owners throughout the novel. What central idea or theme about humans’ treatment of animals does the novel convey? (RL.8.2) How does Buck’s point of view about particular incidents in the novel reveal the owners’ traits and develop a theme of the novel? (RL.8.3, RL.8.6) Compose an essay that examines how the theme is developed and cite textual evidence that strongly supports your analysis. Be sure to follow conventions of standard English. (W.8.1a-e, W.8.9a, W.8.10, L.8.1c-d, L.8.2a-c, L.8.3, L.8.6)
Jack London portrays Buck as a super dog that is real. Some people don’t think a dog like Buck can be true and call Jack London a nature faker. I disagree with these people because I don’t think animals are dumb and act by instinct. I think they are smart, have feelings, and can reason, so I agree with Jack London.

I think London’s approach changes during the story as Buck changes because at the beginning of the story, Buck lived at the judge’s house. It was peaceful and exciting, but when Buck was kidnapped and given to the man in the red sweater, he was beaten and abused. It was so sad, and that is probably why Jack London added that in. He wanted to include dogs getting abused so people became aware of the beat of animals back then, and now.

Even with all the people that call Jack London a nature faker, he still does not think he is one. He believes Buck can be a real dog like he is in the story. He also thinks he is faithful to scientific research meaning Buck can definitely be real.

So buck went through a lot to finally get where he belonged: in the wolf pack. His life was fine at the judge’s house. He went swimming, hunting, and walking with the judge’s family. Then he got stolen, and all the torture began. He was beaten, thrown into a sled team, starved from hunger, and fought with other dogs. Finally, after all that, he found himself with John Thorton. It didn’t last long though. The Indians killed John Thorton, and buck was alone. He was quickly welcomed by a wolf pack he had heard a few days ago. He howled to show this was where he belonged in the first place.

Everything Jack London made Buck do was amazing. This is probably why some people just refuse to believe Buck could be real. It’s like he’s a superdog, and there are superdogs in the world. Like the one’s who rescue people without even being trained. Or the ones who can find people covered in snow from miles away. Buck is amazing and I wish everyone would see how some dogs are just so smart without ever doubting their abilities.
Jack London portrayed Buck as a typical dog. Yes, he may have exaggerated some traits, but Buck still remained real to all the other dogs. London should not be considered a nature faker. He should be considered a great author.

Jack London portrayed Buck in *Call of the Wild* as a typical dog to a wild, mean beast. London put Buck through cruel times because London is trying to show that people can be very ignorant to animals. For example, the man in the red sweater beat Buck just to get him to be afraid of man. That is very ignorant for someone to do that to any animal. Another example of ignorance of people is people calling him a nature faker. Judging a writer on a fictional story is very very hard to do.

London has a dog killing big groups of people, taking beatings, and nearly starving to death doesn’t mean he is a nature faker. It means he’s trying to entertain his fans. What I think it is; is that people are just being some haters.

I don’t really understand how London made Buck seem so clear to the other dogs but he still portrayed him as being a typical dog. It might just be the awsome talents from one of the greatest fiction writers.

For all you haters out there next time, don’t judge anyone. Especially a great writer on a fiction story.
In the beginning of *Call of the Wild* Jack London portrays Buck as a splendid companion and friend of Judge Miller’s. In the end, London portrays Buck as a wild beast he truly was in his natural instinct. This change evolves throughout the story and takes you on a journey through the wild.

At the beginning of the story, Buck lives at Judge Miller’s house. Buck spends most of his days playing and hunting with Judge’s sons or simply laying out by the warm fireplace near Judge’s chair. The house Judge’s family and Buck were living in was “half hidden among the trees in the sun-kissed Santa Clara Valley” as the story describes it. They called it Judge Miller’s Place. Here, in this “half hidden kingdom,” was where Buck roamed as king of every living and non living thing that passed the eye.

Living in such an atmosphere as Buck, you wouldn’t think you had anything to worry about, would you? Wrong! Some trouble was brewing in this household. The new gardener, Manuel, seemed so nice and kind to Buck until he kidnapped Buck and sold him to the man in the red sweater. Might I mention that this was also done without the acknowledgement of Judge. Buck was not pleased to be put on a leash, much less have that leash handed over to a complete stranger so, as all dogs would do because of their natural instinct, Buck growled. This was considered a threat to the man in the red sweater so he knocked Buck out by choking him. Next, Buck was beaten by a man with a club. This action finally made Buck realize that he was no longer king of the castle. In my opinion, a dog could never analyze such a situation so easily. Jack London made Buck a very humanized dog.

Soon after, Buck was sold to some other strangers. This time, Buck actually liked them. François and Perrault were actually kind to Buck. They treated the dogs with a respect and love, to which all dogs should be treated. François and Perrault fed the dogs decent amounts and cared for them. They made the dogs work very hard, but allowed them to rest when needed. All this work caused Buck to become a very strong and powerful beast.

On the other hand, we have owners like Hal. He is the man that took ownership over the dogs when François and Perrault have to leave. Hal made the dogs work way too hard and pushed them far beyond their limits. For starters, Hal overpacked the sled. As a result, the sled flipped and all the dogs got away. They were later caught by some towns people and brought the pact to Hal and his family. Also, Hal and his family didn’t take care of the dogs at
all. They barely fed the dogs and rarely let them rest. Despite the fact that the lake only had a thin layer of ice, the family decided to cross it anyway. There trying to make a short cut on the trail to Dawson. Ahead of time, Hal stopped the sled at John Thorton’s camp. All of the dogs layed down in exhaustion until Hal roared at them to get up, so they could continue their journey. All the dogs slowly rose to their feet all except Buck. Buck stayed still, for he knew what lied ahead. Hal noticed this annoying behavior of Buck and he started to smack Buck with his whip. Buck was not willing to drown in a ice cold lake just because his crazy owner wanted him to, so Buck stayed just as he was. Sure does sound like a human-like analyzation, huh! John Thorton was so angry at Hal for whipping Buck, that he told him, “If you Strike that dog again, I’ll kill you.” Thorton cut Buck loose and Hal, being stubborn, forced the rest of the dogs across the lake. As it seemed Buck had imagined, the ice was not strong enough and gave way. Hal, the family, and the remaining dogs all drowned.

John Thorton grew a close relationship with Buck. The two of them were like two peas in a pod. They loved each other so dearly and were always together. Buck did not want to loose this owner. One day, John Thorton was at his camp and Buck wasn’t around. Thorton’s camp was raided by the Yeehats. They killed John and Buck heard the scream of John Thorton’s death. Buck ran back to the camp as fast as he could and killed almost of the Yeehats. This sounds a tad bit exaggerated if you ask me. I don’t think Buck could have possibly killed all those Yeehats alone. Anyway, it was very sad for Buck but at the same time, he was very happy. The wild had engulfed Buck and it brought joy for Buck to kill a human, the most noble of all mammals.

Throughout Call of the Wild, we notice how Jack London changes Buck from a domestic dog, to a wild beast who is now one with nature. A change like this wouldn’t normally happen to a regular dog. Jack London humanized Buck quite a lot in Call of the Wild. London is a nature faker but I do not believe he is a bad kind of nature faker. London gives Buck human-like characteristics. All he did was make Buck analyze situations a little more than a normal dog would have.
I don’t think that Jack London is a nature faker. As a human it is impossible to get into the mind of an animal to know what the animal is truly thinking or feeling. I think Jack London does a good job describing how Buck would act in that particular situation. I have a dog, and although I don’t know what my dog is thinking, after spending time with her, I think I know how she feels, what she thinks and how she might act in certain situations. I think what Jack London and authors have to do is use their own experiences when developing characters, but that doesn’t make him a nature faker, it makes him creative.

Before Buck was kidnapped, Judge owned him. Judge treated him like royalty. Buck acted spoiled or the way a spoiled child might act. He was used to being greeted by strangers. They would take him for walks and things, so he didn’t even realize that he was being kidnapped. Similarly a child who is being treated kindly might be able to easily be taken by someone they don’t know, especially if they have trusting relationships with others.

Buck goes from a prize winning dog to acting savagely. His dog instincts kick in. He is in survival mode. This happens naturally to animals. It is basic survival of the fittest. When you treat someone as a savage, they begin to act like a savage.

Buck is loyal to John Thornton because John saved his life. Dogs can have a loyal nature and mourn loved ones. I watched this movie one time about a dog that would faithfully wait everyday for his owner at the train station. Even when his owner died, he dog would come back and wait. I also saw a You Tube video of lion cubs that were raised in captivity and returned to the wild. Years later when those humans went to check on them the lions remembered who they were. These “wild” animals remembered and showed love to the humans who cared for them long ago.

When authors tell stories from the animal’s point of view, they are being creative. They are not being nature fakers. I think Jack London was being as true as he could. He made Call of the Wild as real as it could have been written.
Author, Jack London’s portrayal of the character, Buck in *Call of the Wild*, is that of an independent thinker. London expresses this by putting Buck into various challenges. Probably the three most important challenges for Buck were: the man in the red sweater, dying Curly and the encounters with Charles, Hall and Mercedes. The events surrounding buck demonstrate that he does not act on instinct alone.

The first, and probably the most important challenge of all was when Buck encountered the man in the red sweater. Buck was enraged at this point. He had been kidnapped and starved. He lunged and tried to hard to maul the man. The man simply beat him with the club every time he tried to attack. Buck learned from the wretched man to not let rage blind him. Buck used this skill when battling Spitz.

Curly was one of Buck’s mates. She was trying to be friendly with the bigger dogs. However, they took that as a cry for battle. Curly then realized she was in an all-out fight to the death. It was like a playoff at the “Masters” golf tournament but that does not involve death. Sadly, curly lost. This haunted Buck all throughout the novel. Because of this horrible event, Buck learned to stay out of the bigger dogs’ way.

Hal, Charles, and Mercedes were a very inexperienced group of people. They worked the dogs too hard and did not feed them an adequate amount. Buck thought to himself that if he was going to die it would be from Charles’s club not the thawing river. If it was not for this thought Buck would have never met his best friend, John Thortan.

In conclusion, Jack London thinks that Buck can think for himself. London shows this through all the challenges Buck faced in the novel. These examples prove to me that buck can think for himself.
In the Book, *Call of the Wild*, Jack London was a nature faker sometimes and sometimes he was not. When he expressed feelings of animals, it was faking Nature. When he was just writing, about the setting or something, it seemed true.

Often in the book, it would tell us Buck’s feelings. Animals do not have feelings, or emotions. When Buck’s friend Curly died, the book said he was sad. Or when Buck was beat by the dude in the red sweater he felt anger. That is nature faking, because animals rely on instinct, without feelings. When they are hit, they will fight back. Or when thier friends die, they get over it.

However, when Buck killed Spitz, he was just trying to get higher up the chain. He didn’t really feel the anger the book said he felt. Buck was just doing what animals always do, and that’s compete. When Buck was being jostled around by the kidnapper, he wasn’t really annoyed. His natural instinct to being shaken up was to bite. Near the end of the book, when he killed that mouse after four days, Buck wasn’t proud of himself. He was just hungry, so he had to get what he needed.

John Thorten also expressed this in other dogs. He said that Spitz would go out of his way to bully Buck. Spitz wasn’t aware he was doing it. He just was raised mean, so he stayed mean. When Pike was shot, because he was sick, the other dogs weren’t sad. They probably were clueless.

So, in conclusion, John Thorten can be a nature faker. When he spoke about feelings, he was faking nature. When he spoke about what the animals, did he was not. Animals don’t have feelings and rely only on instinct.