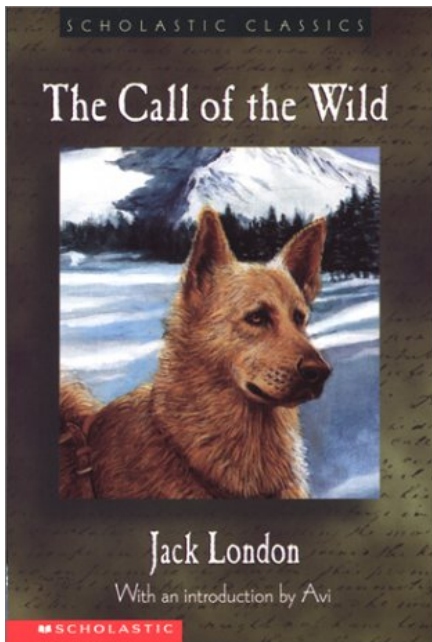


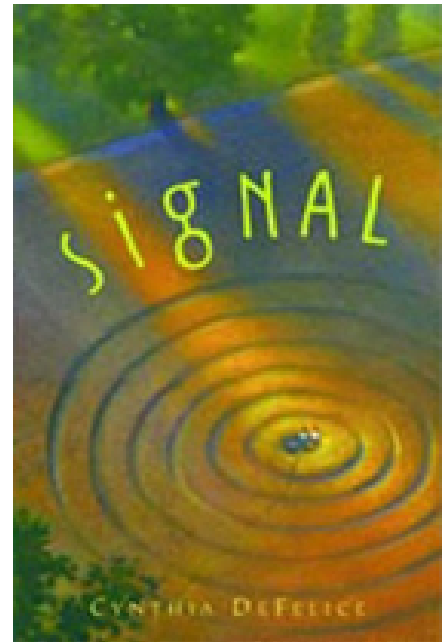
# Summer Reading Assignment Grade 8



## **The Call of the Wild By Jack London**

Jack London was in the vanguard of the quarter million dreamers, adventures, failures and desperados who surged north to the Klondike at the end of the nineteenth century. They were lured by gold, but all most of them found was an environment far more savage than any they could have imagined. It's an environment that Jack London, through the eyes of the dog Buck, describes more vividly and powerfully than any other writer. It's a hard land for men. And it's a harder land for dogs – especially dogs like Buck, the pampered favorite from sunny California estate. Jack London returned from the Klondike in 1898 broke, exhausted, sick and disillusioned. Buck on the other hand . . . well, that's another story.

**OR**



## **Signal By Cynthia DeFelice**

Owen McGuire is having a lonely summer. His mother died a year and a half ago, and after moving to a new town at the end of the school year, Owen and his workaholic father live together like two planets on separate orbits. Owen spends the days with his best friend, his dog Josie, and thinks about nature and the universe. Then he meets Campion, a girl with startling green eyes, cuts all over her body and a plan to signal her alien parents to come back to Earth to pick her up. As Owen and Campion become friends, she tells him about her planet, Home: it's like Earth, but better – where there is no cruelty, and children and animals are always loved. To Owen, Home sounds perfect. Then Campion asks him to help make the signal and, once her parents arrive, travel with her into outer space.

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## Grade 8

### Directions

Read either Signal by Cynthia DeFelice or The Call of the Wild by Jack London. Copies are available at the public library, any bookstores, such as Barnes and Noble or Borders, and limited copies of The Call of the Wild are available to be checked out in the main office of the middle school.

Once you have finished reading one of the two selected novels, choose one of the assignments listed below to complete. All final projects should indicate which number assignment you have selected. Assignments may be hand-written or typed, however all assignments must be legible. Every eighth grader is responsible to complete their choice of assignment for submission on the first day of school. This assignment will be valued at 25 points and will be the first grade of the new nine weeks.

### Project Options

1. Interview a character from your book. Write at least ten questions that will give the character the opportunity to discuss his/her thoughts and feelings about his/her role in the story. However you choose to present your interview is up to you. Don't forget to answer the questions as the character might! All questions require more than one word or simple answers.
2. Write a diary that one of the story's main characters might have kept before, during, or after the book's events. Remember that the character's thoughts and feelings are very important in a diary. You must have a minimum of 6 entries.
3. Write a full (physical, emotional, relational) description of three of the characters in the book. Draw a portrait to accompany each description.

\*\* Please remember that your reading of one of the two novels and your choice of one project option must be completed and submitted to your eighth grade Language Art's teacher on the first day of school. \*\*