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Creating Images

Imagery is a form of figurative language that creates mental images. Jack London uses extensive imagery to help make the story more real for the reader so that the reader can see what Buck is seeing. An example of his use of imagery is evidenced early in Chapter 2:

“ . . . Buck was taken aback. He saw Spitz run out his scarlet tongue in a way he had of laughing; and he saw Francois, swinging an axe, spring into the mess of dogs. Three men with clubs were helping to scatter them. It did not take long. Two minutes from the time Curly went down, the last of her assailants were clubbed off. But she lay there limp and lifeless in the bloody, trampled snow, almost literally torn to pieces, the swart half-breed standing over her and cursing horribly.”

This scene is so vividly described that it is as though the reader is actually living it.

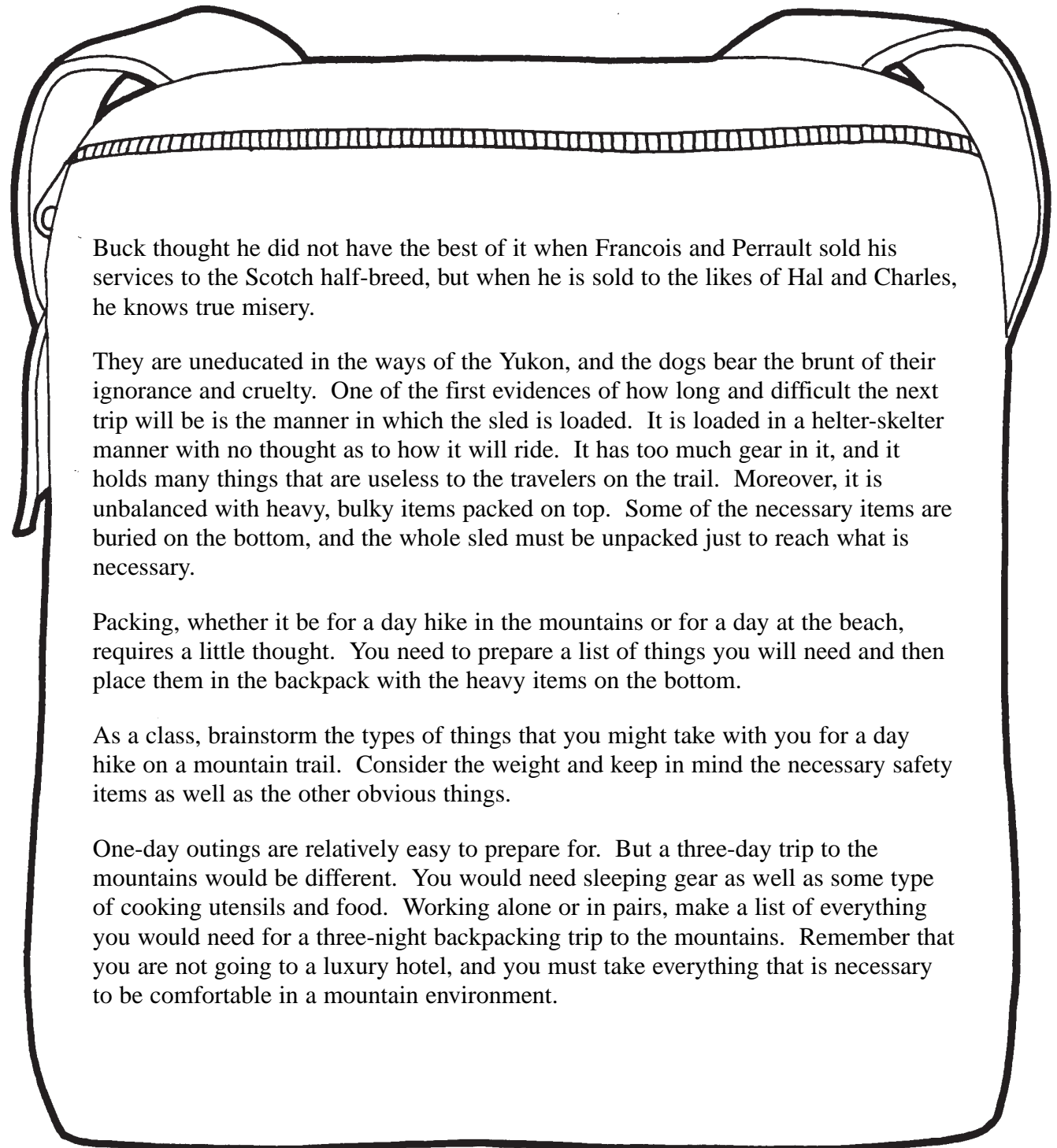
Now, it is your turn. Working with a partner, you are to locate three similar examples of imagery from Chapter 2. You and your partner will find the examples and write them down entirely. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, draw a visual representation of one of your examples.

Example 1: _____

Example 2: _____

Example 3: _____

Pack It Up!



Buck thought he did not have the best of it when Francois and Perrault sold his services to the Scotch half-breed, but when he is sold to the likes of Hal and Charles, he knows true misery.

They are uneducated in the ways of the Yukon, and the dogs bear the brunt of their ignorance and cruelty. One of the first evidences of how long and difficult the next trip will be is the manner in which the sled is loaded. It is loaded in a helter-skelter manner with no thought as to how it will ride. It has too much gear in it, and it holds many things that are useless to the travelers on the trail. Moreover, it is unbalanced with heavy, bulky items packed on top. Some of the necessary items are buried on the bottom, and the whole sled must be unpacked just to reach what is necessary.

Packing, whether it be for a day hike in the mountains or for a day at the beach, requires a little thought. You need to prepare a list of things you will need and then place them in the backpack with the heavy items on the bottom.

As a class, brainstorm the types of things that you might take with you for a day hike on a mountain trail. Consider the weight and keep in mind the necessary safety items as well as the other obvious things.

One-day outings are relatively easy to prepare for. But a three-day trip to the mountains would be different. You would need sleeping gear as well as some type of cooking utensils and food. Working alone or in pairs, make a list of everything you would need for a three-night backpacking trip to the mountains. Remember that you are not going to a luxury hotel, and you must take everything that is necessary to be comfortable in a mountain environment.