

Unit Exam on Jack London's The Sea-Wolf and Short Fiction

(Prepare all; write on three to be selected by instructor.)

1. Discuss Browning's "Caliban Upon Setebos" and explain its attractions for Wolf Larsen.
2. The Sea-Wolf explores several dualities--such as land/sea; female/male; civilized/brutal; group/individual; practical/academic; sickly/healthy; immaturity/maturity. There are probably others you have noticed. Discuss the issue of duality, using examples that support your observations.
3. Most critics say that the introduction of Maud Brewster weakens the drive of the narrative. In class, however, I have argued that the love story is vital to both the psychological and political themes of The Sea-Wolf. Take a stand and support it.
4. The Sea-Wolf chronicles patterns of growth and decline as characters interact. Discuss the complex relationship of Wolf and Hump.
5. The short fiction of the naturalist era examined social issues using an often unstated but nevertheless clearly implicit moral perspective. Discuss some of the things that these so-called "objective" and "scientific" writers thought were wrong with the world.