

# Jack London

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# Summary

- Jack London was born John Griffith Chaney in San Francisco, CA on January, 12<sup>th</sup>, 1876.
- His greatest works include: *White Fang*, *Call of the Wild*, *To Build a Fire*, *Odyssey of the North*, and *Love of Life*.
- He was an author, journalist, and social activist.
- Jack London died November 27<sup>th</sup>, 1916 in Glen Ellen, CA.

# Life Timeline of Jack London

Born on  
Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>,  
1876.

Marries Bessie  
Maddern and has two  
children in 1900.

*The Sea Wolf* is  
published.  
Divorces Bessie in  
1904.

Dies of illness on  
Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, 1922.

Visits the Yukon  
in 1897.

*Call of the Wild* is  
published in 1903.  
Divorces Bessie in  
1904.

Marries Charmian  
Kittredge in 1905.



# Who were Jack London's Parents?

- Many people believe that Jack London's father was astrologer William Chaney. London's mother, Flora Wellman, a music teacher and spiritualist who claimed to channel the spirit of an Indian chief, was living with Chaney in San Francisco and became pregnant. Whether Wellman and Chaney were legally married is unknown. Most San Francisco civil records were destroyed by the terrible fires that followed the 1906 earthquake and it is not known with certainty what name appeared on his birth certificate. People note that in his memoirs, Chaney refers to London's mother Flora Wellman as having been his "wife" and also cites an advertisement in which Flora called herself "Florence Wellman Chaney".

# Did Jack London use Plagiarism?

- Jack London was accused of plagiarism in 1901.
- He did purchase plots and novels from Sinclair Lewis and used parts from newspapers as writing material.
- Egerton Young accused Jack London of taking most of *The Call of the Wild* from his book, *My Dogs in the Northland*. London replied by saying he had thanked Egerton and listed him as a source.

# How was Jack London's Health?

- By his death at age forty on November 22, 1916, Jack had been bothered for years by many number of health problems, including stomach disturbances, ravaging uremia, and failing kidneys. His death certificate states that he died of poisoning.



# TV Career for Jack London?

- Jack London was one of the first celebrities to be endorsed for commercial products, such as grape juice and men's suits. He was also a very publicized man and one of the most of his day. In his speeches he talked about endorsed socialism and woman's suffrage.



# Jack London...The Sailor

- You might know Jack London as a writer, but do you know him as a sailor? Not many people loved sailing as much as Jack London. He sailed on the *Sophia Sutherland*, *SS Umatilla*, *City of Topeka*, *RMS Majestic*, *SS Siberia*, *Spray*, *Snark*, *SS Mariposa*, *Minota*, *Tymeric*, *Roamer*, *City of Pueblo*, *USS Solace*, *USS Vestal*, *New York*, *Arkansas*, *Mississippi*, *Ossabow*, *Matsonia*, and *SS Sonoma* were all the boats that Jack London sailed on while traveling the world.







