Jack London - A Brief Biography

**Jack London** was born on January 12, 1876.  By age 30 London was internationally famous for his books *Call of the Wild* (1903), *The Sea Wolf* (1904) and other literary and journalistic accomplishments.  Though he wrote passionately about the great questions of life and death and the struggle to survive with dignity and integrity, he also sought peace and quiet inspiration. His stories of high adventure were based on his own experiences at sea, in the Yukon Territory, and in the fields and factories of California.  His writings appealed to millions worldwide.

London was also widely known for his personal exploits.  A colorful, controversial personality, London was often in the news.  Generally fun loving, he was quick to side with the underdog against injustice of any kind.  An eloquent public speaker, he was much sought after as a lecturer on socialism and other economic and political topics. Most people considered London a living symbol of rugged individualism, a man whose fabulous success was not due to special favor of any kind, but to a combination of immense mental ability and vitality.

Strikingly handsome, full of laughter, restless and courageous, always eager for adventure, Jack London was one of the most romantic figures of this time.  He ascribed his worldwide literary success largely to hard work - to 'dig', as he put it.  Between 1900 and 1916 he completed more than 50 fiction and non-fiction books, hundreds of short stories and numerous articles.  Several of the books and many of the short stories are classics and still popular; some have been translated into as many as 70 languages.  Among the best known are *Call of the Wild, White Fang, The Sea Wolf, Martin Eden* and *John Barleycorn.* In addition to his writing and speaking commitments, London carried on voluminous correspondence (he received some 10,000 letters per year), read proofs of his work as it went to press, and negotiated with his agents and publishers.  He spent time overseeing construction of his custom-built sailing ship, the *Snark*, (1906-1907); the construction of his dream house, [Wolf House](http://jacklondonpark.com/jack-london-wolf-house.html) (1910-1913); and the operation of his farm, [Beauty Ranch](http://jacklondonpark.com/jack-london-beauty-ranch.html), (1905).

[**http://www.discovery.com/tv-shows/klondike/videos/jack-london-in-the-yukon/**](http://www.discovery.com/tv-shows/klondike/videos/jack-london-in-the-yukon/)