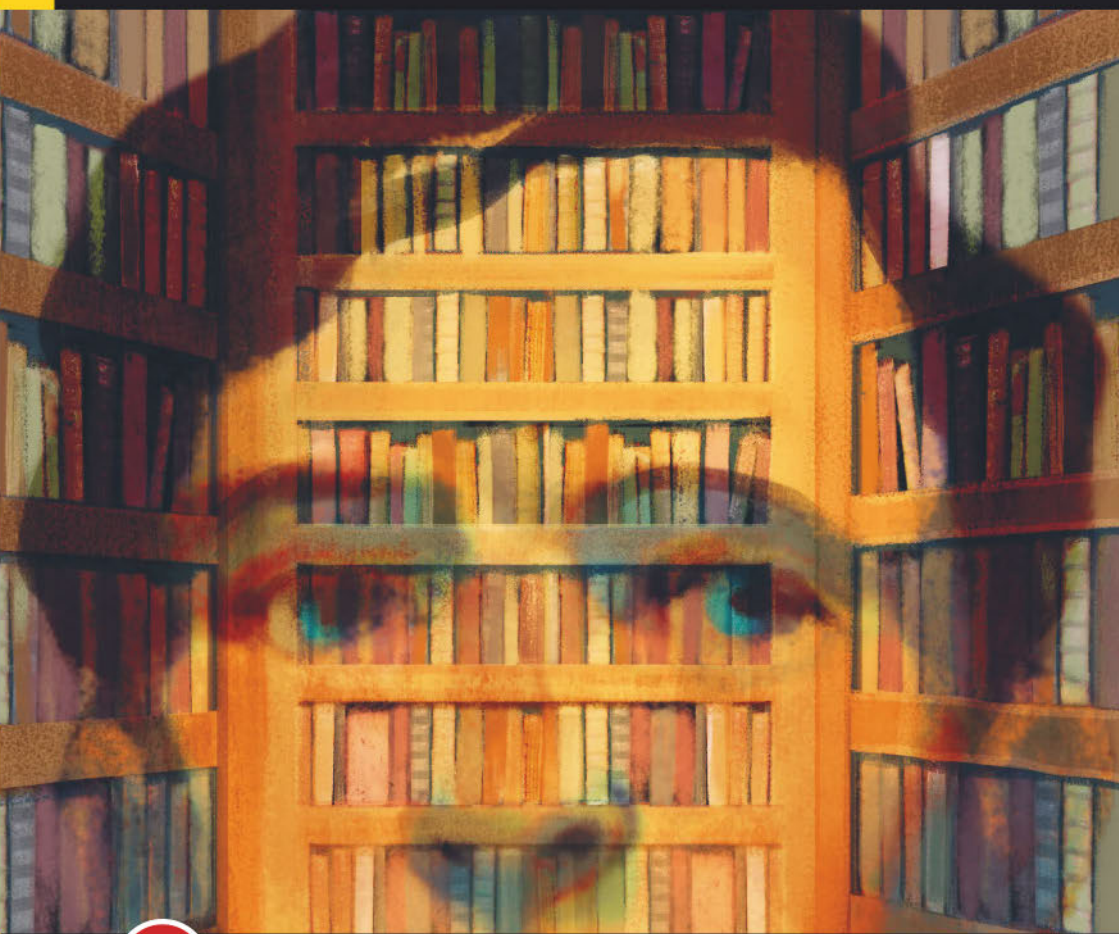


Jack London

Martin Eden



free Audiobook



Jack London

Martin Eden

Adaptation and activities by Gina D.B. Clemen
Illustrated by Paolo d'Altan





Member of CISQ Federation



**CERTIFIED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
ISO 9001**

The design, production and distribution of educational materials for the CIDEB (Black Cat) brand are managed in compliance with the rules of Quality Management System which fulfills the requirements of the standard ISO 9001

Content editor: Chiara Versino
Editor: Alessandra Liberati (Studio Zebra)
Design: Erika Barabino, Silvia Bassi, Daniele Pagliari
Page Layout: Annalisa Possenti
Picture research: Alice Graziotin

Art Director: Carla Nadia Maestri

© 2023 Black Cat
First edition: January 2023

DEALINK, DEAFLEX are trademarks licensed by
De Agostini SpA

Picture credits:
Adobe Stock; Shutterstock; iStockPhoto; CSU Archives/
Everett Collection / Bridgeman Images: 4; Janet Fries/
Getty Images: 55; Kevin Mazur/Getty Images: 84.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form of by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the written permission of the publisher.

We would be happy to give you further information concerning our material and receive your comments.

info@blackcat-cideb.com
blackcat-cideb.com

Printed in Genoa, Italy, by Litoprint srl

Contents



CHAPTER 1	<i>An elegant place</i>	8
CHAPTER 2	<i>The public library</i>	18
CHAPTER 3	<i>A great idea</i>	28
CHAPTER 4	<i>Black cherries</i>	36
CHAPTER 5	<i>Mr. and Mrs. Morse</i>	46
CHAPTER 6	<i>A terrible accident</i>	57
CHAPTER 7	<i>The gold coin</i>	66
CHAPTER 8	<i>Judge Blount</i>	75
CHAPTER 9	<i>Dark shadows</i>	85
CHAPTER 10	<i>Success!</i>	93
CHAPTER 11	<i>Swinburne's poem</i>	101

DOSSIERS	Jack London	4
	San Francisco and the Literary Scene	55

ACTIVITIES	Before you read	7, 65, 74
	The text and beyond	14, 24, 34, 42, 52, 63, 72, 81, 91, 98, 107
	After reading	110

B2 FIRST

This icon indicates B2-First-style activities

T: GRADE 7

This icon indicates Trinity-style activities

n. track



THE STORY IS FULLY RECORDED.



Jack London

Jack London was born in San Francisco, California on January 12, 1876 into a working class family. As a child he loved books and reading.

At the age of fourteen London left school and got a job at Hickmott's Factory, where he worked long hours, earning very little. Factory life was not for young Jack London, who dreamed of adventure and travel. At sixteen he

decided to see the world and became a sailor on a ship. He sailed to the Pacific Ocean going as far as Japan to hunt seals¹, but his experience at sea was disappointing and he returned to the States.

Once back in Oakland without money and without a job, London realized that a good education was the key to a better life, so he went to high school during the day and worked in the evening. He had a real thirst for knowledge and became a self-educated man. It was at this time that he began writing his first short stories.

When gold was discovered in Klondike Region in northwest Canada, London and some friends decided to join the search in 1897. The freezing Arctic weather and difficult living conditions made him very ill, and he left the Klondike with no gold but with some great ideas for his best stories.

1. seal:



The Call of the Wild (1903), for example, a novel about a brave dog during the Klondike Gold Rush², was an immediate success. Readers loved this touching story and London became a famous writer. In 1906 he published *White Fang*, another unforgettable novel about a young wolf.

London was now a rich and successful author who loved the sea. On his yacht *Snark* he traveled to the South Pacific. Unfortunately, London spent his money carelessly, and ran into deep financial problems. During the last years of his short life, he had serious health problems and died at the age of forty on November 22, 1916. Written in 1909, *Martin Eden* was semiautobiographical and the character of Martin Eden has been admired as the most vital and original character that London created. With his deep understanding of human nature and brilliant literary style, Jack London is one of America's most appreciated authors.

Comprehension check

1 Answer the following questions.

- 1 How was Jack London's first experience at sea?
- 2 What made London a self-educated man?
- 3 How did the Klondike Gold Rush influence London's career?
- 4 Which book brought London immediate success?
- 5 Why did London have financial problems?
- 6 Why did London become one of America's most appreciated authors?

2. **Gold Rush:** when a lot of people go to look for gold in a certain area.

The Characters

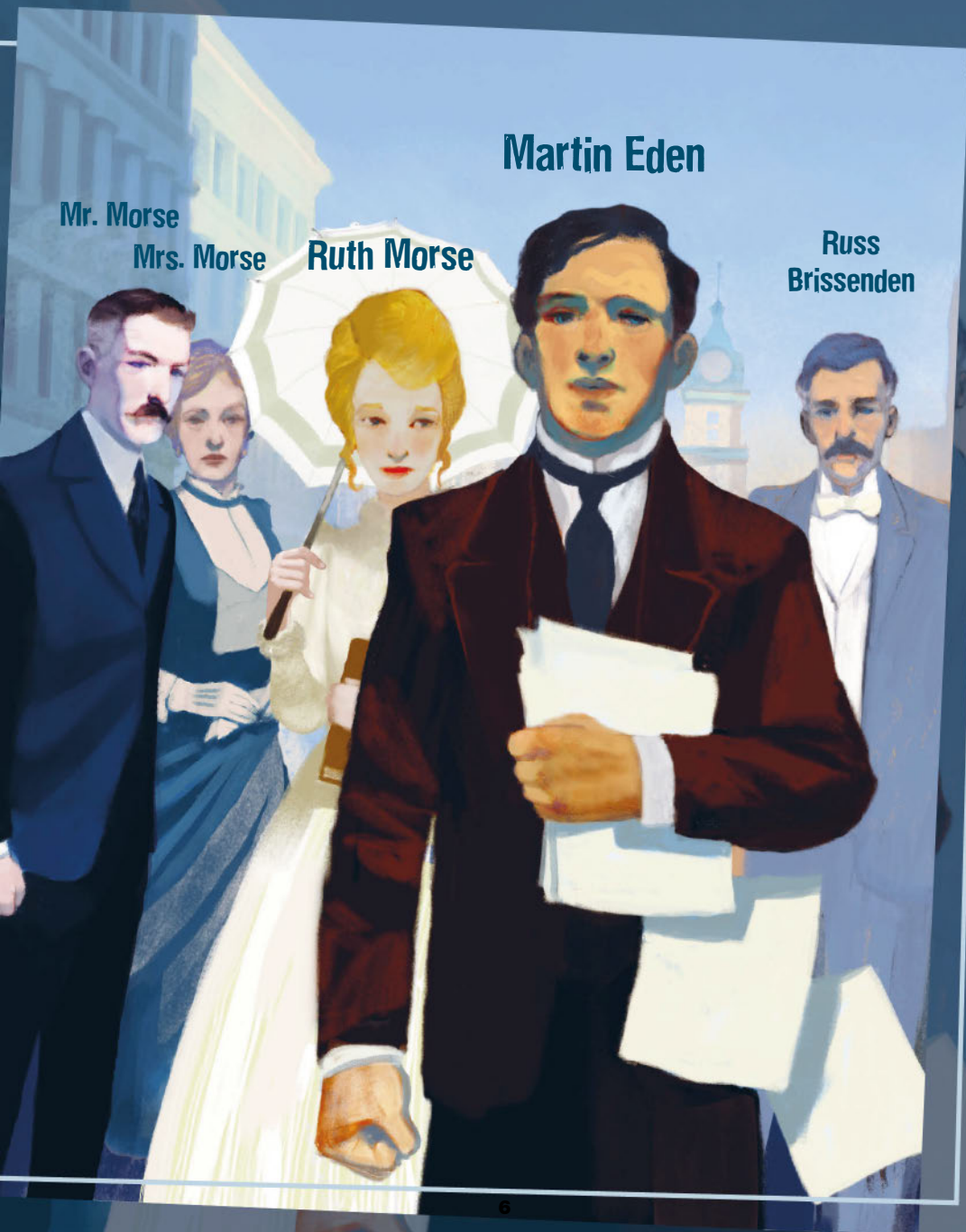
Martin Eden

Mr. Morse

Mrs. Morse

Ruth Morse

**Russ
Brissenden**



Before you read

- 1** The words 1-6 appear in Chapter 1. Match them with their definitions (a-f).

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> rolling gait | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> hoodlums |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Swinburne | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> ain't |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> South of Market | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> inadequate |

- a A poor area in San Francisco.
- b American slang for "is not / are not". The protagonist is not well-educated: he often uses wrong expressions and his grammar is often incorrect.
- c An English poet of the 19th century.
- d When you feel that you don't have the necessary qualities or abilities in a certain situation.
- e A particular way of walking that is typical of sailors who are used to walking on a ship.
- f Violent criminals.

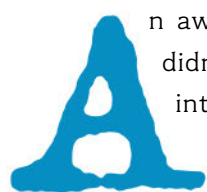
- 2** Use the words from exercise 1 to complete the following sentences.

- 1 Martin's cheap clothes and shoes made him feel at the party.
- 2 He walked with a because he had spent many years at sea.
- 3 The three attacked Arthur at the corner of a dark street.
- 4 The professor talked about in our 19th-century literature class.
- 5 The area has always been a dangerous one, especially at night.
- 6 "I sure I can understand poetry and things like that," said Martin.



CHAPTER 1

An elegant place



n awkward young man walked into a spacious hall and didn't know what to do with his cap. He tried putting it into his coat pocket, but his friend, who was quite at ease, took it from him.



track 02

“He understands,” he thought. “He’ll help me get through this evening, but why did I come?”

He followed his friend closely into the wide rooms that seemed narrow for his broad shoulders and rolling gait. His heavy arms hung loosely at his sides and he didn't know what to do with his big, rough hands. He felt terribly out of place. Drops of sweat grew on his forehead. He was anxious about getting through the evening in such an elegant place with such important people.

He felt surrounded by the unknown, but he was touched by beauty. An oil painting caught his eye. It was an ocean scene with big waves, a stormy sky and a sailing ship. There was beauty and



it captured him immediately. He forgot his awkward walk and his cheap, old clothes. He had only seen oil paintings in shop windows, but now he was in front of one. It was a wonderful feeling.

He looked around to find his friend, who was busily reading a letter. So he glanced at some books on a small table and put out his hand to touch them. His eyes were like those of a starving man at the sight of food. He took one book into his hands, looked at the title and the author's name: Swinburne! He could remember that name. Was Swinburne dead or was he still alive and writing?

He didn't notice that a young woman had entered the room until his friend Arthur said, "Ruth, this is Mr. Eden."

No one had ever called him *Mister* Eden — it was always Eden, or Martin, or *Martin* Eden. He liked being called Mister Eden. Then he saw the girl — pale, thin, with lovely blue eyes and long golden hair. To him, she was like a pale gold flower. Her beauty was unreal; he had never seen such a woman. He saw her hand coming out to his and she looked him straight in the eyes as she shook hands with a strong handshake. The women he knew were entirely different. They came from South of Market and usually worked in factories, or they were the women who worked in sailors' bars in the South Seas ports.

"Won't you sit down, Mr. Eden?" the girl said, gently. "I've been looking forward to meeting you ever since you helped Arthur — it was really brave of you!"

"Oh, it was nothing at all. Those hoodlums were bothering Arthur on the ferry and they were dangerous, so I hit a few of them very hard, and they ran away."

He noticed how gently she sat down in a chair, and he looked at the chair near her. All his life he had been unaware of being either awkward or graceful, but now it mattered. He sat down on the



CHAPTER 1

edge of the chair and worried about his hands. They were big and always in the way. Arthur was leaving the room and he felt lost and alone in the spacious room with the beautiful woman.

"You have a scar on your neck, Mr. Eden," she said, looking at his sun-burned neck. "How did it happen?"

"A Mexican with a knife, miss," he answered. "It was a fight. And after I got the knife away from him, he tried to bite off my nose."

"Oh!" the girl said with a faint voice.

"She's evidently shocked and not used to such subjects of conversation," he thought. "People in her world don't talk about such things. I've got to find the right subject to talk about."

"That Swinburne man, that poet," he said, pointing to the books on the small table, "is he dead?"

"Well, I haven't heard about his death," she said, surprised, "but do you *know* him?"

"No, no! I read some of his poetry from the books on the table before you came in. Do you like his poetry?" He desperately hoped that this was the right subject of conversation.

She began to talk quickly and easily about the subject he had suggested and he felt better. He had succeeded in making her talk and he tried very hard to follow her. He was amazed at all the knowledge that was in that pretty head, and he sat back and admired the pale beauty of her face.

"This is the intellectual life," he thought, "it's warm and wonderful!" He forgot himself and stared at her with hungry eyes. Here was something to live for, to fight for, to win and... to die for. There were such women in the world and she was one of them.

Even though she knew little about the world of men, she was a woman and she was aware of his burning eyes. Men had never





CHAPTER 1

looked at her in that way and it embarrassed her, but at the same time it pleased her.

At a certain point she was confused, but then continued speaking. “Many of Swinburne’s poems should never be read; they are not gentle and could upset the reader.” Her voice was firm.

“Well, I guess I didn’t understand them. I ain’t really into poetry,” he said, feeling terribly inadequate in front of this gold flower. “Excuse me, miss, I don’t know anything about things like poetry or books. It ain’t in my class, but I want to learn about them!” His voice was convinced and his eyes shone.

“I think you can learn about them,” she said with a warm laugh. “You’re very strong.”

She felt attracted to this strong, muscular man whose English grammar was so poor and whose body shone with health. This had never happened to her before.

“Yeah, I ain’t weak,” he said, proudly. “But I’m not used to poetry and books. I’ve never learned about them. I feel like a sailor on a strange sea without a map or a compass¹. I want to get used to them, though. Maybe you can put me on the right road to learning. Where did you learn all these things?”

“In school! I went to high school and then to the university,” she answered, quite surprised.

“I went to school for a few years, but I didn’t go to high school.”

Suddenly an older woman entered the room. “Oh, excuse me, Mr. Eden. There’s my mother!” She got up quickly and went to kiss her mother. He could see that they loved each other.

1. compass:





It was finally time for dinner and he was sitting next to her at the long, decorated table. Her brothers Arthur and Norman, and her mother were sitting opposite him.

“The members of her family *love* each other,” he thought. “It warms my heart; it was so different in my family.” All his life he wanted love, but he had been without it and this had hurt him.

Now he had to eat like he had never eaten before: silently, politely, slowly, using the correct tools, sitting properly, no elbows on the table. The people there were speaking softly and using words that he had never heard before. To him, this was another world and it delighted him. It was the first time that eating became something more than just filling his stomach.

At the end of the evening she shook his rough hand and said, “Thank you for coming, Mr. Eden. I hope you’ll come to visit again.”

“Oh, this was the greatest time of my life. You see, I ain’t used to people and houses like this, and I like it!”

As soon as he had left she asked Arthur, “How old is he?”

“Twenty — almost twenty-one,” replied Arthur.

“And I’m three years older,” she thought.

The text and *beyond*

Comprehension check

1 Choose the correct answer — a, b, c or d.

- 1 When Martin Eden entered the spacious hall
 - a ☐ he felt excited and glad to be there.
 - b ☐ he was very curious about the new place.
 - c ☐ he felt anxious and out of place.
 - d ☐ he put his cap into his coat pocket.
- 2 The first thing that caught his eye
 - a ☐ was a book by Swinburne.
 - b ☐ was an oil painting of an ocean scene.
 - c ☐ was the long, decorated dinner table.
 - d ☐ was his friend who was reading a letter.
- 3 Ruth was looking forward to meeting Martin Eden
 - a ☐ because he was a good friend of the family.
 - b ☐ because he worked with her brother Arthur at South of Market.
 - c ☐ because he helped Arthur during a fight.
 - d ☐ because he helped Arthur on the ferry boat.
- 4 Ruth told Martin that many of Swinburne's poems
 - a ☐ should never be read.
 - b ☐ were her favorite poems.
 - c ☐ had won literary prizes.
 - d ☐ were about love.
- 5 Having dinner with Ruth and her family at the long, decorated table
 - a ☐ frightened Martin Eden.
 - b ☐ was a new, delightful experience for Martin.
 - c ☐ became difficult and boring for Martin.
 - d ☐ made Martin feel hot and sweaty.

Grammar

TO BE USED TO – TO GET USED TO

“But I’m not used to poetry and books. I want to get used to them, though,” said Martin Eden.

TO BE USED TO means **to be familiar with something**. Look at these sentences to understand the use of **to be used to**.

Jack won’t miss the 5 a.m. train. He’s used to getting up early.

Brian won’t mind the young children. He’s used to noisy classrooms.

“He/She is used to doing something” means that he/she often does it and it is easy for him/her. It’s almost a **habit**.

We use **be used** with the preposition **to + -ing form**.

We can use **be used to + noun** or **pronoun**.

TO GET USED TO refers to a **past state or feeling that has ended now**.

At first Sally didn’t like wearing glasses, but now she has got used to wearing them.

Helen didn’t enjoy the snowy winter weather, but now she has got used to it.

“He/She has got used to something” means that **something that was new or strange is now normal and familiar**.

We use **get used to + -ing form / noun** or **pronoun**.

- 2** Rewrite the sentences using the correct form of *to be used to*. Use the negative when necessary. The first is done for you.

0 Mary Anne usually studies late at night.

Mary Anne is used to studying late at night.

1 John has lived in Arizona for ten years.

2 I’m afraid of swimming in the ocean.

3 Kevin always scores goals for his team.

4 Mr. Johnson has taught foreign students for ten years.

- 3 Use the correct form of *to get used to* to complete the sentences. Use the negative when necessary. The first is done for you.

- 0 When Bob joined the football team, he*got used to*..... training in the rain.
- 1 He worked in a disco so he hearing loud noise.
- 2 Foreign students from warm countries can't living in Alaska.
- 3 Jenny moved back to town because she never living on a houseboat on the river.
- 4 "Do you like wearing contact lenses now?" "Yes, I wearing them."

Vocabulary

- 4 Look at the adjectives below that describe moods and complete the table.

nervous anxious shy awkward satisfied delighted
inadequate uneasy pleased embarrassed patient
cheerful calm friendly worried scared

Adjectives to describe someone feeling uncomfortable	Adjectives to describe someone feeling relaxed

Discussion

- 5 Read the questions and discuss the answers in a small group. Share your answers with the class.

- 1 Have you ever been in a situation where you felt awkward and out of place?
- 2 How did you handle the situation?
- 3 What did you learn from this experience?
- 4 Did you ask yourself *why* you felt awkward and out of place?

Culture Spot

B2 FIRST Read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits the gap in the same line. There is an example at the beginning.

The Big Four

The Morse family were very (0) and had probably made their money in the late 1800s. They owned a large mansion in the (1) part of Oakland. But the Morses could certainly not compete with the Big Four, who were the richest men in the San Francisco Bay Area, and had built (2) mansions in San Francisco's most (3) neighborhood, Nob Hill. The (4) of the Big Four stretched across the American continent and in 1882 the writer Robert Louis Stevenson described Nob Hill as "the hill of palaces". Who were the Big Four? Charles Crocker, Leland Stanford, Mark Hopkins and Collis Huntington, who made colossal fortunes with the Central Pacific Railroad. The Central Pacific Railroad became part of the American Transcontinental Railroad. After the Gold Rush of 1849 the West became a big (5) for investors, merchants and adventurers. Gold, silver, minerals and hundreds of (6) resources that could easily be (7) enabled investors and merchants to reap huge profits. Thousands of people wanted to go West, but a (8) means of transportation was lacking. The Big Four decided to build the Central Pacific Railroad from California going East to Utah, where they met the Union Pacific Railroad in May 1869. The (9) was made and America had its first transcontinental railroad which determined the incredible (10) of the western states. The Big Four showed great (11) and built universities, public libraries and hospitals.

WEALTH

RESIDENCE

PALACE

EXPENSE

FAMOUS

ATTRACT

NATURE

EXPLOIT

RELY

CONNECT

GROW

GENEROUS