

## ABSTRACT

### STAYING ON YOUR FEET: AN EXAMINATION OF JACK LONDON'S SOCIAL DARWINISM

This study argues that Jack London's companion novels The Call of the Wild and White Fang are complementary in their coordinated philosophical intent. Portraying reality through the perceptions of the newly discovered science of social Darwinism, these companion novels work together as allegorical texts addressing the proper application of "survival of the fittest" theory as viewed by London. When read as two halves of the same philosophy, London's companion novels work together to reconcile Spencer's notion of individualism with human altruism in a manner that suggests the author's devotion to both scientific truth and moral compassion. This study thereby argues that the companion novels function together as an indispensable guidebook on how, under the assumptions of social Darwinism, to survive in an indifferently savage universe and still maintain altruistic tendencies for the ultimate goal of human evolutionary harmony.

Amber Lyn Badasci  
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