

"Call of the Wild" Symbolism Essay

by Tina L. Sharkey, LA 3rd Hour

Pike, the dog, symbolizes the malingerer or lazy person. In Chapter 3, bottom of page 25, Pike stays hidden in his snow nest instead of getting up for work on the dog sled, and finally is only awakened and put to work when Spitz goes after him. In Chapter 4, page 34, it says that Pike never put an ounce more of his weight against the breastband than he was compelled to do. In Chapter 5, page 40, it also describes Pike as a malingerer who in his lifetime had often faked injuries to get out of his share of work. Later in Chapter 5, page 50, it describes Pike as so close to death he no longer has the energy to fake injuries.

Pike is like my sister Tami in many ways. My sister was the laziest kid ever. Just like Pike, she never got out of bed for school without my mother forcing her or pulling her out of bed. She was often truant to school because of this in high school. Later as an adult, she was fired often from jobs because she would arrive late or have too many "tardy" excuses. Tami also liked to "fake" she was injured to get out of chores around the house. I can remember one day when Tami, my brother, and I were suppose to rake the millions of leaves in our yard and she suddenly came down with a "huge" headache. Interestingly, the headache was over as soon as the leaves were all bagged. As an adult, Tami has actually done jail time for stealing because it was easier than actually working a job just as Pike "steals" food from others because it's easier than working to find his own food.

Word Count: 292