

Fill in the table below about some of the characters in the story. Summarise their role in the story and their relationship with the other characters. Then choose the relevant character descriptions from the list below (remember, each description may apply to more than one character!). Finally, provide evidence from the story to show how each of the character descriptions relates to the character.

Unsentimental Kind
 Accepting Passive
 Brave

Name(s)	Relationship to other characters	What is their role in the story?	Character description(s)	Evidence for character description
KOSKOOSH				
THE CHIEF OF THE TRIBE				
SIT-CUM-TO-HA				



1. Match each phrase from the story with an image.

Camp must be broken. The long trail waited while the short day refused to linger. Life called her, and the duties of life, not death.

1

A



Hear them whine! How they hated the work and the trail! They were off! Sled after sled churned slowly away into the silence.

2

B



One by one they would go to feed the fire, and just so, step by step, death would creep upon him.

3

C



"An old one," Zing-ha, who was quicker at reading the sign, said - "an old one who cannot keep up with the herd. The wolves have cut him out from his brothers, and they will never leave him."

4

D



One wolf had been caught in a wild lunge of the maddened victim and trampled to death. A few bones, well picked, bore witness.

5

E



The picture, like all of youth's impressions, was still strong with him, and his dim eyes watched the end played out as vividly as in that far-off time.

6

F



A cold muzzle thrust against his cheek, and at its touch his soul leaped back to the present.

7

G



He waved his brand wildly, and sniffs turned to snarls; but the panting brutes refused to scatter.

8

H



Abode (v) past tense of 'abide' (to live or dwell)

Anathematizing (v) cursing or condemning

Palsied (adj) affected with tremors or paralysis

Compass (n) the enclosing limits of an area

Stalwart (adj) loyal, reliable and hardworking

Chiding (v) scolding or rebuking

Shaman (n) a spiritual leader

Gutturals (n) harsh sounds produced in the throat

Tundra (n) a vast, flat treeless Arctic region

Thong (n) a narrow strip of leather

Moccasin (n) a soft leather shoe

Fagot (n) a bundle of sticks used for fuel

Perpetuate (v) to carry on

Squaw (n) woman or wife

Caribou (n) reindeer

Slovenly (adj) careless, slow

Spruce (n) a coniferous tree

Void (n) a completely empty space

For the nonce (phrase) for the moment



Please choose the best option for each of the following questions:

1. What is Sit-cum-to-ha doing at the beginning of the story?

- a. Extinguishing the fires and breaking down camp
- b. Harnessing the dogs up ready for the trail ahead
- c. Cooking a hearty breakfast for her grandfather
- d. Practicing to fight with a gnarled club

2. What thought makes Kiskoosh panicky for a moment?

- a. That his tribe may leave without him
- b. That he is close to death
- c. That camp may not be broken quickly enough to make the most of the short day ahead
- d. That he may have lost his favourite fur

3. Who is Koskoosh? Circle all that apply.

- a. An old blind man
- b. Chief of the tribe
- c. Father of the chief of his tribe
- d. Grandfather of Sit-cum-to-ha
- e. A skilled hunter
- f. A deaf man

4. What happens when you tap the silhouettes of Koskoosh's tribe on the hill? *

- a. They turn and walk back towards you
- b. They walk out of sight
- c. They jump on their sleds and crack the whips
- d. They do the splits

5. Who approaches Koskoosh as the rest of the tribe travel away?

- a. The chief of the tribe
- b. Sit-cum-to-ha
- c. The shaman
- d. His favourite dog

6. What simile does Koskoosh use to describe himself?

- a. As a last year's leaf, clinging lightly to the stem.
- b. Like a snowflake, drifting to another existence.
- c. A ghost trapped in human form.
- d. As a bird with wings broken

7. What happens if you don't read quickly enough while Koskoosh sits alone by his fire? *

- a. The screen freezes over
- b. Kiskoosh dies
- c. The snow gets stronger and stronger
- d. The fire grows to fill the screen

8. Why is the wood the only thing standing between Kiskoosh and the eternity that yawned in upon him?

- a. Because he will have to use them to defend himself from wolves
- b. Because once there is no wood to burn, he will freeze to death
- c. Because he needs them to cook his meals, or he will starve
- d. Because he must used them to build himself a shelter

9. What does Koskoosh think nature is interested in?

- a. The concrete thing called the individual
- b. The species
- c. Nothing but eternity
- d. All things equally

10. What is the task of life set down by nature?

- a. To perpetuate
- b. Death
- c. To kill
- d. To climb trees

*For these questions, refer to iClassics iLondon





11. What is the law of life set down by nature?

- a. Death
- b. To perpetuate
- c. That everything is connected
- d. That you must never steal

12. What metaphor does Koskoosh compare the members of the tribe to?

- a. Episodes
- b. Like a last year's leaf
- c. Slaves of nature
- d. Lambs to the slaughter

13. Where did Koskoosh abandon his own father?

- a. In a valley gripped by unforgiving frost
- b. In the very same spot he where he himself now sat
- c. On the bank of the Kaskawulsh glacier
- d. On an upper reach of the Klondike

14. What happened to Koskoosh during the Great Famine?

- a. He was gravely injured by a caribou
- b. He lost his mother
- c. He met his wife
- d. He was born

15. How many members of the tribe survived the Great Famine?

- a. Less than one in ten
- b. Only 15
- c. None survived
- d. All of them

16. How did Zing-ha die?

- a. He was killed by a pack of wolves
- b. He grew to an old age and was left behind
- c. He fell through an air-hole on the Yukon
- d. He was killed by the Pellys

17. What animals can you see in the sky behind young Koskoosh and Zing-ha as they examine the tracks? *

- a. Two wolves and a moose
- b. An entire pack of wolves
- c. A herd of caribou
- d. A flock of birds

18. What does Zing-ha say is strange about the moose and the wolves?

- a. For wolves to chase such a large animal
- b. For a moose to free itself once taken down
- c. For a moose to be alone and separated from the herd
- d. For wolves to die during a hunt

19. What makes a chill pass over Koskoosh's body?

- a. His last piece of wood extinguishing upon the fire
- b. The sound of his son returning with the dogs
- c. A long-drawn howl, coming from close by
- d. The sound of the wind echoing around the void

20. What makes the wolf initially retreat?

- a. His hereditary fear of man
- b. A call from his brothers
- c. Koskoosh sets him on fire with a burning fagot
- d. Koskoosh doesn't know

21. How many wolves surround Koskoosh? *

- a. 10
- b. 3
- c. 8
- d. Hundreds

22. What happens at the end of the story?

- a. Koskoosh fights the pack of wolves off and sits back down by the fire
- b. Koskoosh drops the stick in the snow and accepts his fate
- c. The ghost of the old moose appears and spirits Koskoosh away
- d. Koskoosh's son returns and fights off the wolves



*For these questions, refer to iClassics iLondon

For each of the scenarios below, explain what you think each of the characters would do in this situation. Explain why they would do this, based on the personality descriptions and evidence you completed in the Character Activity.

- a. The tribe finds a hidden ice cave full of gold, jewellery and other riches beyond their wildest imaginings. They divide the gold amongst each other. Some tribe members decide to give up their nomadic lifestyle and to go off and discover what the world has to offer them with their riches.
- b. The tribe stumble across a strange device, which suddenly erupts in a green flash. They find that they have been teleported to the future (to the time you, the reader, are currently living in).

Extension: now, choose one of the scenarios and write it out in full as a short story, including your characters reaction. Give it a beginning, a middle, and an ending. Try to mimic the style of writing used by London in *The Law of Life*.





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