

London, Jack. *The Sea Wolf*. 1904. New York, New York: Bantam Dell, 2007. Print.

An example of animalism is that you will fight to survive at all costs. In *The Sea Wolf* by Jack London, Wolf Larsen mentions that same thing. Take for example this passage from the story:

“‘You are afraid of him (Mugridge) now. You are afraid of me. You cannot deny it. If I should catch you by the throat, thus’ - his hand was about my throat and my breath was shut off, - ‘and began to press the life out of you, thus, and thus, your instinct of immortality will go glimmering, and your instinct of life, which is longing for life, will flutter up, and you will struggle to save yourself. Eh? I see the fear of death in your eyes. You beat the air with your arms. You exert all your puny strength to struggle to live. Your hand is clutching my arm, lightly it feels as a butterfly...’”(82).

This quote tells it all. You will try to fight for your life. And according to Wolf Larsen you will only win if you are the most dominant of species.

The next example is when Mugridge has his right leg amputated by a shark. It says in the novel, “But at this juncture, Mugridge, who had lifted his head and ascertained the extent of his loss, floundered over on the deck and buried his teeth in Wolf Larsen’s leg...”(152). This clearly shows that man will exact revenge, an animalistic act.

The last example is how Wolf Larsen beat Johnson. Wolf Larsen beat Johnson for saying, “They (oilskins) are no good.”(85). So in saying this, Wolf Larsen beat Johnson and this caused a domino effect of beatings that day: Thomas Mugridge gets beaten by Leach, and two other fights occur.