One night, while all the house slept, White Fang awoke and lay very quietly. And very quietly he smelled the air and read the message it bore of a strange god’s presence. And to his ears came sounds of the strange god’s movements. White Fang burst into no furious outcry. It was not his way. The strange god walked softly, but more softly walked White Fang, for he had no clothes to rub against the flesh of his body. He followed silently. In the wild he had hunted live meat that was infinitely**1** timid**2**, and he knew the advantage of surprise.

The strange god paused at the foot of the great staircase and listened, and White Fang was as dead, so without movement was he as he watched and waited. Up that staircase the way led to the master and to the master’s dearest possessions. White Fang bristled**3**, but waited. The strange god’s foot lifted. He was beginning the ascent.

Then it was that White Fang struck. He gave no warning, with no snarl anticipated his own action. Into the air he lifted his body in the spring that landed him on the strange god’s back. White Fang clung with his fore-paws to the man's shoulders, at the same time burying his fangs into the back of the man’s neck. He clung on for a moment, long enough to drag the god over backward. Together they crashed to the floor. White Fang leaped clear, and, as the man struggled to rise, was in again with the slashing fangs.

The family awoke in alarm. The noise from downstairs was as that of a score of battling fiends. There were revolver shots. A man’s voice screamed once in horror and anguish. There was a great snarling and growling, and over all arose a smashing and crashing of furniture and glass.

But almost as quickly as it had arisen, the commotion died away. The struggle had not lasted more than three minutes. The frightened household clustered at the top of the stairway. From below, as from out of an abyss**4** of blackness, came up a gurgling sound, as of air bubbling through water. Sometimes this gurgle became sibilant**5**, almost a whistle. But this, too, quickly died down and ceased. Then naught came up out of the blackness save a heavy panting of some creature struggling sorely for air.

Weedon Scott pressed a button, and the staircase and downstairs hall were flooded with light. Then he and Judge Scott, revolvers in hand, cautiously descended. There was no need for this caution. White Fang had done his work. In the midst of the wreckage of overthrown and smashed furniture, partly on his side, his face hidden by an arm, lay a man. Weedon Scott bent over, removed the arm and turned the man’s face upward. A gaping throat explained the manner of his death.

“Jim Hall,” said Judge Scott, and father and son looked significantly at each other.

Then they turned to White Fang. He, too, was lying on his side. His eyes were closed, but the lids slightly lifted in an effort to look at them as they bent over him, and the tail was perceptibly agitated in a vain effort to wag. Weedon Scott patted him, and his throat rumbled an acknowledging growl. But it was a weak growl at best, and it quickly ceased. His eyelids drooped and went shut, and his whole body seemed to relax and flatten out upon the floor.

infinitely1 - extremely

timid2 – shy

bristled3 – stiffened and lifted his head

abyss4 – a gulf, a hole

sibilant5 – hissing

**Read lines 1-6**

A1. List five things White Fang does in these lines. (5)

**Read lines 7-16**

A2. How does the writer show White Fang’s strength, power and ferocity in these lines? (5)

You must refer to the language used in the text to support your answer, using relevant subject terminology.

**Read lines 17-25**

A3. How does the make these lines tense and dramatic?

You should write about:

* what happens to build tension and drama;
* the writer’s use of language to create tension and drama;
* the effects on the reader.

You must refer to the text to support your answer, using relevant subject terminology.

**Read lines 26 - 36**

A4. What impressions do you get of the Scott Family in these lines? (10)

You must refer to the text to support your answer, using relevant subject terminology.

**Now consider the passage as a whole**

A5. Evaluate the way White Fang is presented in this passage. (10)

You should write about:

•your own thoughts and feelings about how White Fang is presented

•how the writer has created these thoughts and feelings

 You must refer to the text to support your answer.