

# The King of Mazy May

Jack London

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## Summary

**Setting:** The northern Klondike region of Canada during the gold rush of the late 1800s. Walt Masters is a good-hearted and hard-working boy, just 14 years old. He lives and works with his father prospecting for gold on their claim by the Mazy May Creek. When his father goes away on a trip, Walt is in charge. He is also responsible for watching the property of their neighbor, Loren Hall, while Hall walks to Dawson to register his land with the land commissioner. One day Walt comes upon five professional land thieves who are planning to rush to Dawson to jump Loren Hall's claim. Walt knows he must do something to stop them. He takes a sled and a team of dogs from the thieves and races toward Dawson. The men come after him, but Walt is able to stay ahead. Walt finally catches up to Loren Hall. Together they travel to Dawson and register the land before the claim jumpers arrive. Walt is considered a hero, and the men of the Yukon call him the King of Mazy May.