

Standards/Objectives

RL.11-12.9 Demonstrate knowledge of eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and early twentieth-century foundational works of American literature, including how two or more texts from the same period treat similar themes or topics.

Objectives: - Determine and analyze the development of the theme(s) in American literature of the 19th century (e.g. freedom, the American Dream, racism, regionalism, survival, “individual vs. society” and “civilization vs. the wilderness”)

“To Build a Fire” by Jack London - Comprehension Questions

1. **Please attach your SMILES graphic organizer to these questions before handing in this assignment!** (Similes, Metaphors, Imagery, **Locate the Main Idea**, Effects of the Writer’s Voice {Mood & Tone}, Summary)
2. Why do you think the protagonist is referred to as “the man” instead of being given a name?
3. What is the weather like at daybreak at the beginning of the story? How does this **foreshadow** the rest of the story?
4. How are the man and the dog similar? How are they different?
5. Why doesn’t the man worry about the cold? What is alarming/absurd about his reaction to the frostbite?
6. Why do you think London continues to emphasize the coldness, and how the man had never felt such cold before?
7. Why does London point out that the dog acts from instinct?
8. While eating, what startles the man? Why is this important?
9. When he falls in the river, the man curses his bad luck. Do you agree with where he places his blame? Why?
10. When the man considers “using” his dog for survival, how does London emphasize the characteristics of Naturalism (see the list on my website)? Use P.E.A. (Point, Evidence, Analysis).
11. What is the flaw in the man’s plan when he begins to run to the camp?
12. Why does the man start to berate the dog?
13. How does the dog know to leave and head to the camp?