**“To Build a Fire” by Jack London**

Realism —a 19th century (1890’s-1920) literary movement that claimed to portray life exactly as it is, with detachment and objectivity; it was a reaction against the imaginative plots, emotional themes, and grandiose writing style of the Romantic period; main writers from this period include Jack London, Stephen Crane, Ambrose Bierce, John Steinbeck, and Mark Twain.

**Directions: Read London’s story on pages 496-507. After reading, answer the questions below.**

1. Why do you think the protagonist does NOT have a name?

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1. Find one quotation on page 497 that is an example of the foreshadowing of danger.

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1. Briefly describe the setting of the story (time period, time of year, time of day, location).

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1. At the outset of the story, what is one word to describe the attitude of the protagonist? Why is this dangerous considering the setting? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. While the man and his dog are in the same perilous situation, how do they differ in their response?

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1. What causes the man to ignore the warnings of the extreme cold?

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1. What does the man’s reaction to the frostbite on his cheeks suggest?

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1. Do you think the man is being fair by having the dog take all the risks? Explain your point of view.

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1. What does the man blame for his getting wet? Is this a reasonable assessment in your opinion?

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1. Why does the man’s fire go out? What does this reveal about his survival skills?

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1. Find one example from the story that proves London’s belief that “only the strong survive”?

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1. What does the realist’s view of human beings seem to be? Do you agree or disagree?

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1. Look at the dates above for the period of Naturalism. Using your phones, look up 3 social, political, or scientific ideas/events that emerged during this period that could have contributed to this new devotion to realism.
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	2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_