



To Build a Fire - Jack London

Study Guide

1. What is the SETTING of this story? _____
2. Who is the PROTAGONIST in this story? _____
3. Who/what is the ANTAGONIST in this story? _____
4. What is the weather like as the man sets out for Sulphur Creek? _____

5. How would you describe the man in London's story? _____

6. How experienced is the man? How do you know? _____

7. What does the man seem to think of his own abilities? _____

8. How is the relationship between the man and dog described at first? _____

9. What did the dog instinctively understand that the man did not? _____

10. At what point does the man lose control of the situation? _____

11. Which conflicts in this story are INTERNAL? _____



12. Which conflicts in this story are EXTERNAL? _____

13. List as many words as you can find that relate to the word "cold". _____

14. Why may the man's lack of imagination be a serious flaw? _____

15. How is the dog's reaction to the cold different from the man's? WHY is it different? _____

16. What does this sentence mean to you: "The wires were pretty well down between him and his finger ends"? _____

17. Why do you think we are not told the man's or the dog's name? _____

18. Why is the setting of this story important? _____

19. Does the man have knowledge? Does he have instinct? Explain and support your answer. _____



20. What statement does the story seem to make about the relationship between man and nature? _____

21. Does the man gain knowledge at the end of the story? Explain. _____

