

Name_____

“To Build a Fire” by Jack London Socratic Seminar

Directions: Next class we will be engaging in a class discussion. Please answer the questions below. For the core questions, make sure to include *exact lines* from the text to support your ideas. Use the back if you need more room.

Opening Question:

1. Think of a time where someone advised you not to do something, but you did it anyway. What was the situation and how did it work out for you?

Core Questions:

2.This story is organized in a “cause and effect” kind of format. Identify some of the “causes and effects” of this story (big ones and small ones).

3. Early in the story, London writes “The animal was depressed by the tremendous cold. It knew that it was no time for traveling” (pg 548). This passage alerts you to the possibility of trouble ahead. Locate four other passages that foreshadow events. (IF YOU TURNED IN YOUR HOMEWORK ON FRIDAY YOU ALREADY DID THIS ONE! I’ll give you back your answers Monday.)

4. **Theme:** In the story, a man who thinks is contrasted with a dog who reacts by instinct. How do the man and the dog differ in ways they approach the intense cold? What point (THEME/MESSAGE) do you think London is making?

Closing Questions:

5. From the textbook: “Naturalism was a nineteenth century literary movement that claimed to portray life exactly as it is, with detachment and objectivity” (546). How did London demonstrate “naturalism”? How is naturalism different from Romanticism?