

To Build a Fire

Jack London

Why does knowing the exact temperature fail to mean that the man understands the danger?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Facts without significance
------------	----------------------------

FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	To Build a Fire
START	The trouble with him was that he was without imagination.
END	That there should be anything more to it than that was a thought that never entered his head.
PASSAGE ID	sec-tbf-01

THE MOVE

Distinguish possessing information from understanding its implications

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The man possesses precise information about the temperature, yet London separates numerical knowledge from imaginative understanding. He knows the fact but cannot picture what that fact can do to flesh, movement, fire, or survival.

MARK

Box the exact factual information the man possesses about the cold. Underline the lines showing what he fails to imagine or infer from it. Write KNOWS beside the fact and UNDERSTANDS beside any consequence he actually grasps.

NOTICE

- What can the man state accurately about the weather?
- What practical consequences has he failed to attach to that information?
- Why does London treat lack of imagination as a survival problem rather than a personality quirk?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why does knowing the exact temperature fail to mean that the man understands the danger? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why does knowing the exact temperature fail to mean that the man understands the danger? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	The man knows a number but fails to imagine what that number means for flesh, movement, fire, and survival. Information becomes understanding only when consequences are attached to it.
EVIDENCE	Use the exact temperature knowledge and contrast it with the narrator's statements about the man's lack of imagination or failure to grasp significance.
WATCH FOR	Do not argue that the man lacks information. He has accurate information; he lacks the interpretation needed to act on it.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

To Build a Fire

Jack London

Why does knowing the exact temperature fail to mean that the man understands the danger?

START ANCHOR	The trouble with him was that he was without imagination.
END ANCHOR	That there should be anything more to it than that was a thought that never entered his head.

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. **MARK** - Box the exact factual information the man possesses about the cold. Underline the lines showing what he fails to imagine or infer from it. Write **KNOWS** beside the fact and **UNDERSTANDS** beside any consequence he actually grasps.
2. **NOTICE** - What can the man state accurately about the weather? What practical consequences has he failed to attach to that information? Why does London treat lack of imagination as a survival problem rather than a personality quirk?
3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: Why does knowing the exact temperature fail to mean that the man understands the danger?
4. **WRITE** - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.