

To Build a Fire

Jack London

How does London turn the man's declaration that he is safe into evidence of the mistake that may kill him?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	The successful fire fails
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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	But he was safe.
END	Perhaps the old-timer on Sulphur Creek was right.
PASSAGE ID	sec-tbf-03

THE MOVE

Trace how confidence turns one small choice into catastrophe

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The man declares himself safe only after finally getting a fire started, but the place he chooses—beneath snow-loaded branches—contains the next danger. His confidence narrows attention just when careful observation is most necessary, so the success of one step helps produce the next failure.

MARK

Box the man’s declaration that he is safe. Underline the details of where he builds the fire and what is above it. Star the moment the environment turns that confident choice into catastrophe.

NOTICE

- What problem has the man successfully solved when he calls himself safe?
- What new risk is created by the exact place he chooses for the fire?
- How does confidence make the mistake more dangerous than ignorance alone?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does London turn the man's declaration that he is safe into evidence of the mistake that may kill him? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: How does London turn the man's declaration that he is safe into evidence of the mistake that may kill him? 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 declaration of safety becomes ironic evidence of error because the man solves the immediate problem of fire but builds it under snow-laden branches. Confidence narrows his attention just when the location of the fire matters most.
EVIDENCE	Use the statement that he is safe, the details of where the fire is built, and the snow falling from the branches onto it.
WATCH FOR	Do not say confidence itself magically causes the fire to fail. Show how confidence contributes to a specific poor choice.
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

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How does London turn the man's declaration that he is safe into evidence of the mistake that may kill him?

START ANCHOR

But he was safe.

END ANCHOR

Perhaps the old-timer on Sulphur Creek was right.

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 man's declaration that he is safe. Underline the details of where he builds the fire and what is above it. Star the moment the environment turns that confident choice into catastrophe.
2. NOTICE - What problem has the man successfully solved when he calls himself safe? What new risk is created by the exact place he chooses for the fire? How does confidence make the mistake more dangerous than ignorance alone?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: How does London turn the man's declaration that he is safe into evidence of the mistake that may kill him?
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.