

To Build a Fire

Jack London

Why does the dog survive the same cold that kills the man?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	The dog leaves
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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	And all the time the dog ran with him, at his heels.
END	Then it turned and trotted up the trail in the direction of the camp it knew, where were the other food-providers and fire-providers.
PASSAGE ID	sec-tbf-04

THE MOVE

Compare two responses to the same environment

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The man and the dog inhabit the same cold, but they respond differently to evidence. The man repeatedly argues with conditions and delays acceptance; the dog follows bodily knowledge and finally turns toward camp, food, and fire. Survival depends on response, not exposure alone.

MARK

Create two columns in the margin: MAN and DOG. Underline each final response to cold and place it in the correct column. Star the decision that most clearly separates their survival strategies.

NOTICE

- What signals of danger are available to both the man and the dog?

- How does each respond when the man's plan has clearly failed?
- Why is the dog's departure a judgment about the environment rather than a betrayal of the man?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why does the dog survive the same cold that kills the man? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why does the dog survive the same cold that kills the man? 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 dog survives because it responds to environmental evidence rather than arguing with it. Once the man is dead and the fire gone, the dog leaves for camp, food, and other humans instead of persisting in a failed plan.
EVIDENCE	Compare the man's final responses to cold with the dog's sniffing, waiting, recognition, and departure.
WATCH FOR	Do not frame the dog's departure as disloyalty. It is an adaptive reading of the same conditions that defeated the man.
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

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Why does the dog survive the same cold that kills the man?

START ANCHOR	And all the time the dog ran with him, at his heels.
END ANCHOR	Then it turned and trotted up the trail in the direction of the camp it knew, where were the other food-providers and fire-providers.

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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** - Create two columns in the margin: MAN and DOG. Underline each final response to cold and place it in the correct column. Star the decision that most clearly separates their survival strategies.
2. **NOTICE** - What signals of danger are available to both the man and the dog? How does each respond when the man's plan has clearly failed? Why is the dog's departure a judgment about the environment rather than a betrayal of the man?
3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: Why does the dog survive the same cold that kills the man?
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.