

UNIT 4 Unification and Growth
Expanding Frontiers 1865–1910

A STEM school
FROEBEL
BILINGUAL SCHOOL
Home of the Space Generation



TO BUILD A
FIRE

WITH
JIM SOTO

SPEAK YOUR MIND

Advice from others is usually an expression of the kindness of those that know better. Younger people have a tendency to reject it because it can be interpreted as an expression of control.

Think of a time when someone wisely advised you not to do something but you did it anyway. What was the result?

Take a minute to consider and answer the question.

Published in 1908, "To Build a Fire" is a survival tale set in the Yukon, a region of northwest Canada adjacent to Alaska's eastern border. The Canadian government acquired this region in 1870 from the Hudson's Bay Company and established it as a territory in 1898. As one of the hundreds of thousands of people who joined the Klondike Gold Rush, which began in 1898, Jack London had firsthand experience surviving a winter in the Yukon. London portrayed that experience in realistic detail in this story, one of the finest examples of Naturalism.



NATURALISM

Naturalism was a literary movement taking place from 1865 to 1900 that used detailed realism to suggest that social conditions, heredity, and the environment had inescapable force in shaping human character. Naturalistic writers were influenced by the evolution theory of **Charles Darwin**. It is similar to literary realism in its rejection of Romanticism, but distinct in its embrace of determinism, detachment, scientific objectivism, and social commentary.



LITERARY ELEMENTS

Plot

Is the structure that contains the sequence of events which involves the characters in conflict.

Conflict

Refers to a literary element that involves a struggle between two opposing forces, usually a protagonist and an antagonist. This struggle becomes the narrative itself. Conflict provides crucial tension in any story and is used to drive the narrative forward.



Setting

Refers to the time and place in which occurs, together with all the details used to create it. A setting provides the main backdrop and mood for a story.



ASSESSMENT

After reading pages 268-283 in your book, complete the following activities:

1. REFER TO TEXT &
2. REASON WITH TEXT
3. & ANALYZE LITERATURE
 - **Setting, Plot, and Conflict** - Review your list of details about setting. Which details are effective in creating the harsh Yukon setting? How important is the setting to the story? In what ways does London's setting reflect his interest in Naturalism?
 - In examining the plot, what is the external conflict, or outside force, against which the main character struggles? How does he fare against that force? How does the dog, a creature of nature, fare? Does the main character face any internal conflicts?



Jim Soto © 2022