

Name _____
Cooper 8 English

Section _____
November 22, 2013

“To Build a Fire” Writing Assignment

Consider these questions:	<i>What is the tragic flaw that brings about the man's ruin?</i> <i>How does this tragic flaw bring about his end?</i> <i>Should he have foreseen what happens to him?</i>
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A tragic flaw is an imperfection in the character of the protagonist of a tragedy that brings the protagonist to ruin or sorrow.

Based on what you know about The Man, what do you think his tragic flaw could be?

Checklist for Paragraph One: Defining the Character and His Flaw

- __ Name the story, the author, and the protagonist of the story (with a brief description);
- __ Identifies/names a specific tragic flaw that the protagonist possesses;
- __ Define what this flaw is—for example, what does ambition mean and when does this become a flaw in a person?
- __ Provide an example or quote from the story where the protagonist demonstrates this flaw—*this first example should be from BEFORE he recognizes that he was mistaken to travel alone in the Yukon.*

Checklist for Paragraph Two: Defining How This Flaw Brings His Downfall

- __ State that this flaw brings about the ruin of the main character;
- __ Describe specific events from the story that shows how the flaw causes the protagonist to make a mistake in judgment that brings about his ruin;
- __ State whether the protagonist should have foreseen this fate;
- __ Explain why the character should have foreseen this fate (or why the character could not have foreseen this fate).

Final Checklist:

- Does the paper have a typed heading? Are your paragraphs double-spaced?
- **Consider every verb in the draft and find several to change to more descriptive (and suitable) actions.**
- Do the sentences flow, meaning one leads naturally and clearly to the next?
- Have you spelled checked your paper carefully (and been careful with homonyms/wrong word errors?)
- Let there be no writing errors that we have covered so far this year, especially **no run-on sentences or sentence fragments.**
- Have you stayed in THIRD PERSON throughout the paragraph?
- Are your verbs in PRESENT TENSE?
- Do sentences/clauses begin with the pronoun IT?
- Do not use these words: really, a lot, very, etc., thing/something, get/got, stuff.