

Name: _____ Date _____ Per _____

"To Build a Fire" Vocabulary

Carefully read the following words and definitions that are found in the short story "To Build a Fire" by Jack London. Note the page number in parentheses after each word. This is the page on which the word can be found in the story. Be sure to annotate the words in your text.

timberland (p. 1) – a forest

intangible (p. 1) – unable to be felt or touched

pall (p. 1) –NOUN- a cloth, often of velvet, for spreading over a coffin, or tomb; anything that covers, shrouds, or overspreads, esp. with darkness or gloom.

undulations (p.1) –NOUN, plural- movement in waves; a wavelike form, outline, or appearance

Chilcoot Pass (p.1) – a passageway once used by the Chilcoot people. The pass made its way between the Pacific Coast and the Yukon River Valley. Eventually, people began using the pass to search for gold in the center of Alaska.

Dyea (p. 1) – a nearly abandoned town in Alaska near the Chilcoot Pass.

Dawson (p. 1) – a town in Canada in Yukon Territory. This town was very popular in the late 1800s during the Klondike gold rush.

Chechaquo (p. 1) – [Chee-cha-ko] – a word for a newcomer from the Chinook people who are native to Alaska

conjectural (p. 1) – supposed; hypothetical; uncertain

speculatively (p. 1) – thoughtfully

protruding (p.1) – jutting out; projecting; protrude - to push or thrust outward.

temperamental (p. 1) – inconsistent

subdued (p.1) –ADJECTIVE-quiet; muted; repressed; controlled; lowered in intensity or strength;

unwonted (p. 1) – unusual

jowls (p. 1) – cheeks

muzzle (p. 1) - projecting part of the head of an animal, including jaws, mouth, and nose. **OR** a device, usually an arrangement of straps or wires, placed over an animal's mouth to prevent the animal from biting, eating, etc.

amber (p.2) – a hard translucent yellow, orange, or brownish-yellow fossil resin, used for making jewelry and other ornamental objects

appendage (p.2) –NOUN- something added or attached to an entity of greater importance or size; a usually projecting part of an animal or plant body that is typically smaller and of less functional importance than the main part to which it is attached; especially : a limb

furrow (p. 2) – a groove

monotonously (p 2) – boringly, dully, wearily

reiterate(d) (p.2) - to say or do again or repeatedly

pang (p. 2) – a severe pain

compelled (p. 2) – urged, forced

smote/smitten (p.2) to affect, to afflict; OR to attack, damage, or destroy by or as if by blows.

imperative (p.3) –ADJECTIVE- extremely urgent or important; essential

recoiled (p.3) –to spring back, as upon firing; or to shrink back, as in fear or repugnance.

ebbed (p. 3) – fell back, declined, receded

recess / recesses (p.3) –An indentation or small hollow

extremity /extremities (p.3) –A bodily limb or appendage

sheaths (p.4) – coverings

conflagration (p.4) –NOUN- a destructive fire, usually an extensive one.

freighted (p. 4) – weighed down

imperceptible (p. 4) – impossible to be perceived or imagined

agitation (p.4) - the act of agitating something; causing it to move around

flotsam (p. 4) – wreckage, debris

brimstone (p. 5) – sulfur

spasmodically (p. 5) – violently, fitfully, in spasms

ensued (p. 5) - followed

acute (p. 5) - sharp

apathetically (p.5) –ADVERB- acting as if not interested or concerned; indifferent or unresponsive; or having or showing little or no emotion

peremptorily (p. 5) – absolutely, definitely

throttle (p. 5) – to strangle

oppressive (p.5) –ADJECTIVE- difficult to bear; burdensome; distressing or grievous; causing discomfort by being excessive

poignant (p. 5) – distressing

Mercury (p. 6) – a messenger for the gods in Roman mythology

chidden (p. 6) – scolded

bristle (p. 6) – to stiffen