

Week 4

Spring 2014

American Literature Survey Course – Realism and Naturalism

Reading Check

Jack London: “*To Build a Fire*”

1. What is the name of the land and what is it like?
2. How is loneliness described?
3. In what way does the narrator make you feel the harshness of the weather?
4. What is the man’s only idea?
5. What do you think causes the major conflict in the story?

Kate Chopin: “*The Storm*”

1. In what way do you think the story is daring?
2. What does the child symbolize?
3. What does the storm metaphor mirror?

William Faulkner: “*Barn Burning*”

1. What is the boy’s name?
2. What is the boy’s relationship like with his family/father?
3. What does he decide to do when his father asks him to fetch the oil from the barn?
4. Why is the ‘rug case’ an intriguing one?
5. What happens to the boy in the end?

Ernest Hemingway: “*The Snows of Kilimanjaro*”

1. What and how does the reader know about Harry’s earlier life?
2. Why does he ‘hate’ Helen? What does she symbolize?
3. Why is Harry ill and what happens to him at the end of the story?
4. In your opinion what does the gangrene mean anything else apart from the physical suffering it causes?