

Summer Reading Assignment, 10th grade Honors

Essential Questions Journal Assignment: *The Red Badge of Courage* & "To Build a Fire"

Over the course of the reading, you should keep a journal in which you record passages from the text. The passages you select will connect to selected essential questions and will function as an ongoing dialogue journal where students will develop a deepened understanding of the essential questions that frame the text.

- **How do individuals construct identity through their actions, values, and beliefs?**
- **What is the relationship between nature and identity?**
- **What is the difference between knowledge and instinct?**
- **When can fear become overwhelming?**
- **What is courage? Why is it important?**
- **What are some reasons why people choose to enlist and fight in a war?**
- **Should desertion be considered a crime? Why or why not?**
- **What qualities make a good soldier? A bad soldier?**
- **What defines "manhood"?**
- **Is it possible to find redemption for our mistakes?**

Materials

Composition notebook

The Red Badge of Courage, a novel by Ethan Crane

"To Build a Fire", a short story by Jack London

Instructions

For **each** text, you will choose **one passage** (sentences or paragraphs) to relate to **each** of the essential questions. For each passage you choose, you will write out the passage (you may use ellipsis) and the page number on which it appears, note the essential question to which it relates, and write a few sentences exploring the ways in which the passage guides your thinking about the essential question. You should have **at least 20 entries** when you have completed the assignment.

An entry for your Essential Question Journal will look like this:

Title of Work	Essential Question	Passage	My Thoughts
<u>The Red Badge of Courage</u>	What is the difference between knowledge and instinct?	Directly quoted passage from the work with the page number or numbers.	A thoughtful reflection upon the specific passage copied and an explanation of how it answers the essential question.
"To Build a Fire"			

Please report to class on the first day with your journal prepared to submit. During the first week of class, you will be required to write an essay synthesizing the two works; I will provide the prompt. This essay will be submitted to Turnitin.com

Assignment #2

In "How to Tell a True War Story," author Tim O'Brien writes:

In any war story, but especially a true one, it's difficult to separate what happened from what seemed to happen. What seems to happen becomes its own happening and has to be told that way. The angles of vision are skewed.... The pictures get jumbled; you tend to miss a lot. And then afterward, when you go to tell about it, there is always that surreal seemingness, which makes the story seem untrue, but which in fact represents the hard and exact truth as it seemed.

Find instances where Crane's writings reflect the surreal nature of war and write a short essay (500-600 words, double spaced) on how Crane achieves this effect. What kinds of truths can surrealism reveal?