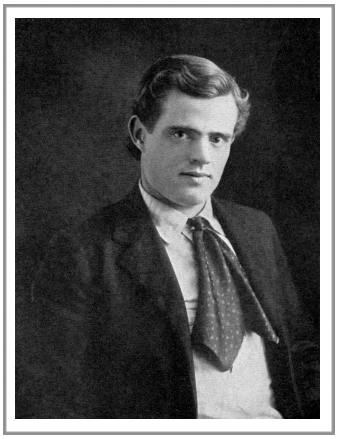




Short Story
Assignment 8

1. *reading.* Complete the study guide material found in Lesson 8 and read the accompanying stories in the anthology. This week we will go over *Naturalism*, which is a critical term that is applied to a certain approach to writing. Remember that we talked about Emile Zola's influence on Guy de Maupassant's writing. Zola attempted to write as a scientist. He said to himself, "How would this character act and react given this set of circumstances?" In class we will be going over the biographies of Stephen Crane ("Blue Hotel") and Jack London ("To Build a Fire"; picture of Crane shown below left), as well as sharpening our understanding of this literary movement. I think that Jack London's story will be more engaging for you than Stephen Crane's work, which when I read it at your age or thereabouts, I had problems with—I found the "local color" a little off-putting: I thought, "These characters are very strange! I can't identify with them *at all.*" Be patient, though, and ponder what Crane is doing with the setting and characters.
2. *idea for story.* Come up with an idea for your story of realism, which will be due on the second week of December. You can read the fairytales written by your classmates online.

Long-range Assignments:

- *your own story.* Your story of realism, which will be due on the **third week of December**.
- *test.* Prepare for a test on **the second Friday of November**. The test will cover all of the stories of oral history, romance, realism and naturalism. The questions will be based on class lectures and the content of the stories read. Make sure that you are able to talk about the distinguishing characteristics of the genres read.
- *book report book.* Remember to continue reading your independent reading book.

"I write for no other purpose than to add to the beauty that now belongs to me. I write a book for no other reason than to add three or four hundred acres to my magnificent estate." —Jack London