



## KWL for “To Build a Fire”

1. Begin with an individual brainstorm. Have students brainstorm what they would need to take with them on a backpacking trip to Alaska in the dead of winter. Tell them that everything they take with them must fit into a backpack. Show them a sample backpack rather than a picture. Give them 1-2 minutes to work totally by themselves on this individual activity. Tell them to write their lists in the first column for what they already know. Then set a timer.
2. After the timer rings, have students work with a partner to expand their lists of what is needed plus what they need to know for a journey of this nature—backpacking into extremely cold country with few inhabitants. Again allow from 1-2 minutes to work with their partners. Ask them to write this list in the second column for what they need to know. Set a timer.
3. When the timer goes off, ask students to discuss what they would take with them on this journey and what they would need to know. Use chart paper to make lists. Refer to the lists during the reading and discussion of Jack London’s “To Build a Fire.”