

**Summer Reading & Writing Assignment
Honors American Literature**

2018

Into the Wild, Jon Krakauer (Anchor Book), ISBN: 978-0385486804

https://www.amazon.com/Into-Wild-JonKrakauer/dp/0385486804/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1494808123&sr=1-1

For your summer reading assignment, please read and annotate *Into the Wild*. When you are finished reading, answer the questions below. Your responses should be composed in your best formal academic writing, and you *must* use quotations from the book (cited with the page number) in all of your responses. Your responses should **each** be 2-4 paragraphs long. **The assignment is due, printed and in proper MLA format, at the beginning of the first class meeting. You also must bring *Into the Wild* to the first class meeting.**

1. Among the many themes in the book, one is that of man vs. nature. Choose three specific quotations from the book and explore this theme. In what ways did Chris McCandless try to overcome nature?
2. Why do you think McCandless's choices and Krakauer's *Outside* article struck such a nerve with the public? In what ways do you think the public's assessment of McCandless is justified or unjustified?
3. Chris McCandless, despite his rejection of consumerism, seemed to have a few objects he was quite attached to, and Krakauer highlights these objects in the book. Discuss the power of the physical objects and the role they play in the book. Why do you think McCandless still held on to objects even when he rejected materialism?
4. Examine the quotations that Krakauer uses to begin each chapter. Some are quotations that McCandless himself highlighted, but others are those Krakauer chose himself. What does bringing in the work of other writers contribute to the book? How do these quotations lend us insight into both McCandless's and Krakauer's experiences?

There is a film based on this book- feel free to watch it after you've read the book. We may watch it in class, but it is pretty long and I am not sure we will have time to squeeze it in!