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Summer Assignment  
***Into the Wild*** by Jon Krakauer

*I will try to make sure that the local Hastings has copies, but I cannot promise that the book will be in stock when you get there. Any edition of the book is fine.*

Parts I and II of this summer assignment will count as one test grade. The *Into the Wild* exam, a second test grade, is scheduled for the first Thursday of the school year. Some test questions may not come from the study questions in this assignment, so make sure that you have a working understanding of the book beyond the study questions.

**Part I: Study Questions**

The following questions are due in class on the first day of school and should be answered in developed paragraphs (*minimum of three sentences*) and typed (*Cambria or Times New Roman font/ 12 point/ double spaced*). Number and indent each of your responses. Support your answers with textual evidence from the chapters. All textual evidence should be parenthetically documented. Refer to the following website if you need help with MLA “author-page style” parenthetical documentation:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/>

Author’s Note and Chapter One

1. What are Krakauer’s credentials for writing *Into the Wild*? (*This is one way the author establishes credibility --ethos— with the reader.*)
2. What theme does Krakauer introduce in the Author’s Note?
3. Gallien’s statement that McCandless would “probably get hungry pretty quick and just walk out to the highway. That’s what any normal person would do,” is an example of irony. What is ironic about this statement?

Chapter Three

4. Local color is introduced when a writer uses regional or colorful terms to present an image of a distinct area or culture. The terms *leather tramp* and *rubber tramp* qualify as examples of local color. What culture do they describe, **and** what is the difference between the two kinds of tramps?
5. Describe McCandless’s early years and family life.

Chapter Four

6. Describe McCandless’s canoe trip.
7. Existentialism is a philosophy that emphasizes the individual’s responsibility and free will to direct the course of his or her life. What existential conclusion does McCandless reach when leaving Las Vegas?

Chapter Six

8. What is the Salton Sea?
9. Krakauer gives a brief character analysis of McCandless after recounting that Franz dropped him off in Colorado. What does the author tell us about McCandless?

Chapter Seven

10. What is the author’s analysis of the relationship between McCandless and his father? *Your evidence should come only from chapter 7.*

11. The author includes three incidents of foreshadowing at the end of this chapter. What are they **and** what do they suggest?

#### Chapter Eight

12. What motivated the author to include the story of John Waterman?

#### Chapter Nine

13. What are the main theories about how Ruesch died?

#### Chapter Eleven

14. What illustrates the confusion Walt McCandless felt about the choices his son made after leaving college?

#### Chapter Twelve

15. What was McCandless's view of the government?

#### Chapter Thirteen

16. A month after Carine returned from Alaska, her mother looked at snapshots from McCandless's life. What is it that she could not understand?

#### Chapter Fourteen

17. What is established/ revealed about the author as a result of the allusions to Nietzsche and Kerouac?

#### Chapter Sixteen

18. What was ironic about McCandless's route out of Fairbanks, when he passed the Geophysical Institute?

19. Describe the problems McCandless encountered after shooting the moose.

#### Chapter Seventeen

20. What does Krakauer conclude about McCandless after reviewing the Franklin story?

#### Chapter Eighteen

21. Describe the last picture McCandless took of himself **and** explain what this image may reveal about him.

#### Epilogue

22. How did Walt and Billie McCandless memorialize their son?

### **Part II: Vocabulary**

Please use the following words to fill out the attached vocabulary sheets.

- |                 |                    |                   |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. asceticism   | 11. harangues      | 21. sanctimonious |
| 2. transcendent | 12. ambivalence    | 22. fatuous       |
| 3. unsullied    | 13. corollary      | 23. chutzpah      |
| 4. amalgam      | 14. banalities     | 24. volition      |
| 5. ominous      | 15. histrionic     | 25. castigated    |
| 6. altruistic   | 16. hubris         | 26. laconic       |
| 7. onerous      | 17. ephemeral      | 27. confluence    |
| 8. inimical     | 18. mercurial      | 28. livid         |
| 9. espouse      | 19. extemporaneous | 29. insidiously   |
| 10. sedentary   | 20. idiosyncratic  | 30. anomalous     |

\*Note: The exam will include the vocabulary listed above.