

English 12 Summer Reading

Howdy, students-

While I hope to become comfortable with "Aloha" soon, I thought I would open with a greeting that might be a bit more common here in Montana. I can't wait to get to Parker to have the chance to meet and work with you all, and I am really excited about our first book, Jon Krakauer's *Into the Wild*. Please complete it along with the attached questions, as it will be the first book we discuss when we return after summer break.

Krakauer's book is the story of Chris McCandless/Alexander Supertramp, a gifted young man who abandons the expectations placed on him by society and family to embrace the spirit of adventure, culminating in a solo camping expedition to Alaska.

Things do not turn out well.

As you read, please keep **Active Reading** in mind:

- Annotate key passages with brief notes
- Underline critical passages
- Ask questions
- Re-read difficult passages
- Make connections in the text and to others
- Note allusions to other texts
- Pay attention to author's tone
- Look for details that reveal character
- Think about how you'd react/feel
- Most of, engage with the text with an active mind

In addition to the novel itself, please read at least one of the articles on this page (<http://www.quixoticpedagogue.org/ap-language/into-the-wild/>) and reflect on how it changes your reading of the text.

It doesn't matter which edition of the text you read but do pay attention to the copyright date and revision history of the text. As Krakauer worked on the text, he made changes that we will discuss in class.

I'm looking forward to some interesting discussions about the book once school begins.

If you have any questions about the assignment, please don't hesitate to ask. I can be reached at dpogreba@gmail.com during the summer.

Thanks,
Mr. Don "Po" Pogreba

English 12 Summer Reading

Short Answer Questions

For each of the questions, **make a one-sentence claim** that articulates your position and note **at least one-page number** that contains evidence to support your position. These could very well become the genesis for a writing assignment, so finding more than one piece of evidence might be wise. ☺

1. Krakauer talks about the idea that risk-taking is a rite of passage, particularly for young men. Is this assertion correct?
2. Is Chris unreasonably cruel towards his parents or are his actions justified?
3. Is Chris ultimately someone we should admire for his independence or someone we should not respect, someone who foolishly risked his own life?
4. What does Jon Krakauer believe about Chris? Does he admire him?
5. One reader of Krakauer's Outside article claimed that Chris "lacked the requisite humility" to go into the wild and that he "commits big-time hubris." Was the writer correct?
6. Why does Krakauer insert his own experience as a young man in the text?
7. Some have argued that Chris suffered from mental illness. Does the text support this claim?
8. Why does Chris admire Wayne Westerberg?
9. Why does Chris have such a powerful impact on Ronald Franz?
10. Krakauer notes that, "one of [Chris's] last acts was to take a picture of himself, standing near the bus under the high Alaska sky, one hand holding his final note toward the camera lens, the other raised in a brave, beatific farewell. His face is horribly emaciated, almost skeletal. But if he pitied himself in those last difficult hours, because he was so young, because he was alone, because his body had betrayed him and his will had let him down-it's not apparent from the photograph. He is smiling in the picture, and there is no mistaking the look in his eyes: Chris McCandless was at peace, serene as a monk gone to God." Does the evidence support Krakauer's belief?

