

Honors American Literature Summer Reading Assignment

Novel: *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer

About the novel: After he ditches his car and gives away his trust fund, Chris McCandless steps off the road into the Alaskan wilderness carrying only what will fit in his backpack. In doing so, he joined a small but committed group of individuals who in some way reject the ideals and lifestyles of modern America (or their culture).



Assignment: The first part of your assignment is to read and annotate *Into the Wild*.

After reading, you need to complete both of the following items:

#1—A Video Review: You are not to summarize *Into the Wild*. You must choose a person or historical figure considered a rebel, outcast, extreme adventurer, or social/environmental warrior to research and discuss. After reading *Into The Wild*, you will compare and contrast the person you researched with Chris McCandless. You will create five minute (minimum) video to discuss the similarities and differences between the person you chose and Chris McCandless. In your video, consider the following questions: What values did they share? Where did their ideals differ? What was the outcome of their actions? What could they have learned from one another?

As You Complete Your Research on the Person You Chose:

Locate several articles about the person you have chosen to research and consider the following:

- Analyze the individual's choice to live or operate outside the usual bounds of society.
- Did this individual find success on his/her quest?
- What stumbling blocks did this person encounter along the way?
- What did this individual learn?
- What did others learn from this individual?

In general, think about the following questions:

- What type of people step out of the traditional bounds of society and why?
- What do they hope to accomplish?
- How does society respond to them?

#2—An Infographic: Create an infographic/reference sheet for the novel *Into the Wild*. I would use Piktochart to create the infographic, but that is up to you. You are not to complete these on notebook paper or by hand. They need to look crisp and professional. Must include:

- Structure—Analyzation of how the text's structure along with the author's purpose contribute to the power and beauty of this novel. Does the structure make points clear, convincing, and engaging for readers? Discuss the author's purpose and how that purpose contributed to the structuring of this novel.
- Quotes—Five of the most memorable quotes from this novel, including a 2-3 sentence explanation (for each) of their importance to the novel.
- Literary Highlights—Five major literary elements presented in this novel and discuss how the author develops them throughout the work (ex: theme, tone, symbolism, etc.).
- Historical Connection—Five points of historical information which influenced the novel/author. What was happening in the world when the novel was written and how did it impact the work? If you wish to discuss the history of the setting and how it impacted the work, that is fine as well.

Submitting Your Assignment—Once the school year begins and Canvas is up and running, I will open a drop-box for these assignments. While this assignment is not due until August 16th, I highly recommend you complete it over the summer we will begin reading a new novel/play during the first week of school.

Best of luck and if you have any questions, please feel free to let me know!

-Mrs. Bass