

Join AP11 Lang & Comp - Summer Assignment Google Classroom

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This summer, in preparation for our study of rhetoric in AP11, you are to read two important texts:

- Jon Krakauer's *Into The Wild*
- Henry David Thoreau's *Walden*

There are **four parts** to this assignment. Read each part carefully.

Background

Though one text is contemporary and the other written mid 19th century - each of them overlap in their consideration of Nature & Society.

Many consider Henry David Thoreau a transcendentalist. Transcendentalists were critics of their contemporary society for its unthinking conformity, and they urged that each person find "an original relation to the universe." Thoreau sought this relation in solitude amidst nature, and in his writing. By immersing himself in nature, Thoreau hoped to gain a more objective understanding of society through personal introspection. Simple living and self-sufficiency were Thoreau's other goals. As Thoreau made clear in his book, *Walden*, his cabin was not in the wilderness but at the edge of town, about two miles from his family home. A copy of *Walden* was discovered in the bus where Chris was found, and Krakauer quoted Thoreau's works in his novel about McCandless.

Part I

Step 1 - Read Krakauer's *Into The Wild*

Step 2 - PRINT OUT the study guide uploaded to Google Classroom (see Code above) and **hand write** your answers – you will hand in the hard copy on the **1st day of class**.

You may check the book out from the library for the summer OR purchase your own copy.

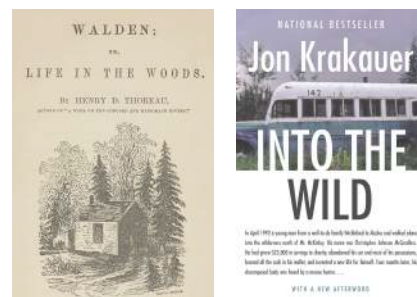
Part II

Step 1 - Read the following 5 chapters of *Walden*:

- "Where I Lived, and What I Lived For"
- "Solitude"
- "The Ponds"
- "Spring"
- "Conclusion"

You will find the texts indexed here:

[The Project Gutenberg eBook of *Walden*, by Henry David Thoreau](#)



Step 2 - For **each chapter**:

Part II (cont.)

Take notes on what you believe to be important quotations* (minimum 2-3) and summarize what Thoreau is trying to convey in the chapter (10-15 quotations overall).

*Quotes can be sentences, passages, thoughts, musings, ideas -- basically, anything **he said** in the text that strikes you as important, unique, or interesting.

Step 3 - In a well constructed paragraph, explain what do you, the reader, notice about Thoreau's style? Use specific examples.

Type your notes and explanations in an MLA formatted document (if you can't remember MLA, Google it!). Group your quotations and explanations by chapter, making sure to identify the chapter by title.

Part III

Step 1 – Read this most famous passage from *Walden*, which isn't quoted in *Into the Wild*, but very well could be:

I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived. I did not wish to live what was not life, living is so dear; nor did I wish to practice resignation, unless it was quite necessary. I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life, to live so sturdily and Spartan-like as to put to rout all that was not life, to cut a broad swath and shave close, to drive life into a corner, and reduce it to its lowest terms, and, if it proved to be mean, why then to get the whole and genuine meanness of it, and publish its meanness to the world; or if it were sublime, to know it by experience, and be able to give a true account of it in my next excursion. – Thoreau, from "Where I Lived and What I Lived For", *Walden*

Step 2 – In MLA format, construct responses for each of the prompts below. Cite specific references from the texts to support your claims. You may paraphrase or quote.

- Make connections between the quotation above and the book *Into the Wild*. Explain the relevance of the above quotation as it relates to the book.
- Compare and contrast the beliefs of Thoreau in his excerpts of *Walden* and the beliefs of McCandless in Krakauer's *Into the Wild*. Do you believe McCandless followed in Thoreau's footsteps? Why or why not?

Your responses may be included in the same document as Part II, but each should be titled and separated by a page break.

Part IV

Be prepared to take a test on these texts on the FIRST day of school.