

English Department
11th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Part I: Read *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer.

Assignment:

- As you read, keep a journal of important characters and events. For each character you list, you may wish to describe him or her in detail (What are his/her predominant personality traits? How does he/she view him/herself? How does he/she view others? What does the character value? What does he/she fear or hate? Etc.). You may also wish to keep a timeline of important events.
- *Into the Wild* chronicles a phenomenon that has occurred numerous times in the past. Conduct some brief research either on one of the historical events in *Into the Wild* (Everett Ruess, Carl McCunn, etc.), or find a different, contemporary example of a similar event. Using your research and the text, write an essay in which you analyze how accurately Krakauer portrays Chris McCandless. Does Krakauer seem to be overlooking McCandless' flaws? Do you feel that you understand why McCandless did what he did after reading this work? You must use specific evidence from the text in your response (here is where your journal may come in handy).
- There will be a test on *Into the Wild* on the first day of school, so make sure you study your reader's journal before you come in.

Part II: Read a book of your choice (some suggestions are listed below)

Assignment: During the first week of school, you will give a five minute presentation on your book. Your presentation should be centered around persuading the class that they either should, or should not, read the book. No more than half of your presentation should be devoted to plot summary and character analysis; most of the presentation should be geared toward the persuasive element. You may, however, use certain elements of the book (a surprise ending, for example) as part of your persuasive technique. You may be creative with this; for example, if you wish to present from the perspective of one of the characters in the book, you may do so.

Suggested authors for Part II:

Isabel Allende

Toni Morrison

Stephen King

John Irving

Edwidge Danticat

Gabriel Garcia Marquez

John Grisham

Julia Alvarez

Jamaica Kincaid

Roald Dahl

Michael Crichton

Terry McMillan

Jon Krakauer

Louise Erdrich

James McBride

Laura Esquivel

Gary Soto

Richard Rodríguez

Barbara Tuchman

Joyce Carol Oates

Luis Rodríguez

Eudora Welty

Jonathan Kozol

Roger Angell

Note: The due date and deadline for all summer work is the first day of classes. Submit work typed or handwritten neatly in blue or black ink.