

**CP English III (Grade 11)**

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**The 11th grade curriculum features a study of American Literature and this summer you will read one of its classics and one non-fiction text.**

**Reading Assignment #1: *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer**

Read *Into the Wild* and be prepared for a 50-point in-class persuasive essay upon your return to school. As you read, consider the following points below to prepare for our in-class discussion and in-class essay.

- Think about whether or not you believe the pain Chris McCandless brought to his family and friends was justified? You should also think about examples from the story that will help you to support your opinion.
- McCandless made a number of friends on the road, and he affected some people deeply. What personality traits made McCandless easy to be with? What qualities did people see in him that made them remember him so clearly and with such affection? How did McCandless keep people at arm's length? Provide examples of other people in literature or society who exhibit some of these qualities to help support your answers.
- Hospitality was one recurring element in the relationships McCandless formed while he was on the road. Discuss how others showed hospitality to McCandless, and give examples of how he returned this hospitality with personal generosity.
- Chris McCandless appeared to have had ambivalent feelings about money. Discuss his financial history as it is revealed in the book, and cite times when he hated money, when he was excited to amass it, and when he simply recognized the need for it. Include your opinion of how his attitude toward money marked different phases of his maturity and independence.
- When Krakauer goes to Alaska to visit the school bus, he takes three friends, one of whom is Roman Dial, a well-known adventurer who "enjoys statewide renown for a long, brash string of back country escapades" and who, according to Krakauer, feels that McCandless would have been similarly renowned "except that McCandless had the misfortune to perish." Discuss McCandless as a successful adventurer, citing examples of his resourcefulness, dedication, focus, physical stamina, and other traits on which Roman Dial might base his opinion.
- Chris McCandless went to a large public high school. Considering all you know about his character, discuss the pros and cons of this type of school setting for him, including why it may have contributed to his rebelliousness and feelings of estrangement.
- Momentum occurs in a story when a decision is made or an event takes place that leads to a series of consequences or happenings. Choose one of the events listed below, and discuss the events that followed it and how those events build momentum toward the conclusion of the story.

- Walt McCandless takes his eight-year-old son Chris on a three-day backpacking expedition in the Shenandoah Valley.
- Chris McCandless, a senior in high school, buys a used yellow Datsun.
- Chris hitchhikes in South Dakota and is picked up by Wayne Westerberg.

**Reading Assignment #2:** *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles

Read *A Separate Peace* and be prepared for a 50-point test on its plot upon your return to school. As you read, take notes, write questions, draw conclusions... draw pictures! Do what you must to actively engage in the text and I promise you will understand the story much better.