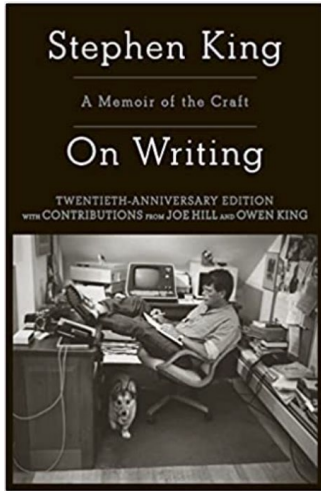




POPE JOHN PAUL II
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

AP English Language and Composition (1 of 2) SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

On Writing by Stephen King
ISBN 978-1982159375



Immensely helpful and illuminating to any aspiring writer, this special edition of Stephen King's critically lauded, million-copy bestseller shares the experiences, habits, and convictions that have shaped him and his work.

Part memoir, part master class by one of the bestselling authors of all time, this superb volume is a revealing and practical view of the writer's craft, comprising the basic tools of the trade every writer must have. King's advice is grounded in his vivid memories from childhood through his emergence as a writer, from his struggling early career to his widely reported, near-fatal accident in 1999—and how the inextricable link between writing and living spurred his recovery. Brilliantly structured, friendly and inspiring, *On Writing* will empower and entertain everyone who reads it—fans, writers, and anyone who loves a great story well told. (Amazon)

AP Language and Composition is a very writing-intensive course. By the end of the year, you will have to demonstrate mastery of analytical, synthesis, and argumentative writing. To become stronger writers, you must learn to “think like a writer.” One way to do that is to read books about writing by professional writers, and there are few books better in modern times than Stephen King's *On Writing*.

King's book is part memoir, part book on writing. **The autobiographical sections of the book are optional – this includes the lengthy first half of the book, entitled “C.V.” The required sections of the book are the following: “What Writing Is,” “Toolbox,” “On Writing,” and the first appendix, “And Furthermore, Part I: Door Shut, Door Open.”** These sections find King talking about the craft of writing, how different writers approach their jobs, and the practical details that separate good writing from bad. You are more than welcome to read the other sections – they're very entertaining and interesting, especially if you are one of King's Constant Readers – but they are not mandatory.

As you read, **annotate information about writing from the perspective of an author.** What influences writers? What methods do they practice for writing? How do they think about their craft? Do they really consider all of the things we tend to talk about in English class when they write? What does King say are the essential tools that a writer must have? How does it make you think about your own writing? What does King's revision process demonstrate for you?

You are expected to come to class with the book annotated for a grade on the first day of class. In addition, you will be writing about the book during the first few days of class.

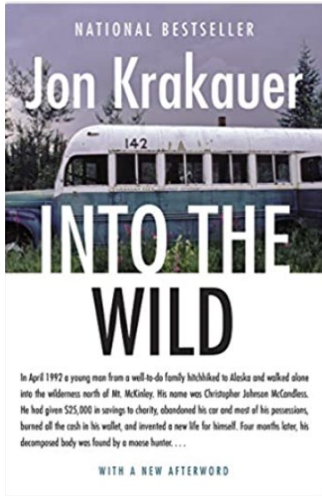
***See next page for the second AP English Language and Composition summer reading assignment.**



POPE JOHN PAUL II
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

AP English Language and Composition (2 of 2) SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer
ISBN 978-0385486804



McCandless had given \$25,000 in savings to charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet, and invented a new life for himself. Not long after, he was dead. *Into the Wild* is the mesmerizing, heartbreaking tale of an enigmatic young man who goes missing in the wild and whose story captured the world's attention.

Immediately after graduating from college in 1991, McCandless had roamed through the West and Southwest on a vision quest like those made by his heroes Jack London and John Muir. In the Mojave Desert he abandoned his car, stripped it of its license plates, and burned all of his cash. He would give himself a new name, Alexander Supertramp, and, unencumbered by money and belongings, he would be free to wallow in the raw, unfiltered experiences that nature presented. Craving a blank spot on the map, McCandless simply threw the maps away. Leaving behind his desperate parents and sister, he vanished into the wild.

Jon Krakauer constructs a clarifying prism through which he reassembles the disquieting facts of McCandless's short life. Admitting an interest that borders on obsession, he searches for the clues to the drives and desires that propelled McCandless. (Amazon)

As you read the novel, annotate for the theme topics listed below. In addition to the theme topics, **annotate for examples of authorial bias and intention in the narrative**. In other words, find places where Krakauer seems to be influencing the narrative through his own perspective and opinions or skewing the narrative to reflect his own ideas.

Theme Topics for Annotations

1. The Allure of Wilderness and Danger
2. Freedom and Society
3. Valuing Principle over People
4. Identity and Self
5. Father-Son Relationships
6. Isolation versus Intimacy

Annotations will be assessed the first day of class; in addition, students will discuss the book and then write a literary analysis essay soon thereafter.

Teacher Contact

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