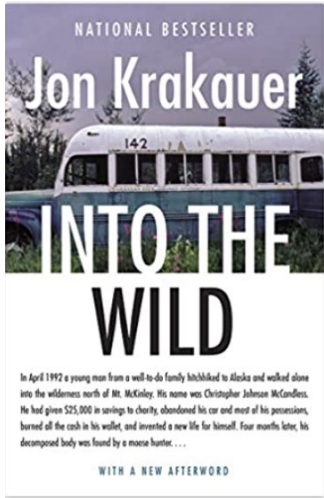




POPE JOHN PAUL II  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

## ENGLISH 11 (non-AP) 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 items listed below. Please keep in mind that annotations include underlines and highlights on every page of the book. Written margin notes are expected on a solid number of pages in the book. For an example of great annotations [click here!](#)

### Thematic Ideas

- The Allure of Wilderness and Danger
- Freedom and Society
- Valuing Principle over People
- Identity and Self
- Father-Son Relationships
- Isolation versus Intimacy

### Literary Terms/Ideas

- Epigraph
- Anecdote
- Imagery
- Figurative Language (metaphor, simile, personification, etc.)
- Krakauer's Purpose and/or Writing Style

### Vocabulary

In addition, find and highlight the vocabulary words (from [this list](#)) throughout the novel. Then complete the fill-in-the-blank worksheet in the same document.

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

### Teacher Contacts

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