FAIRFIELD PREP – AMERICAN STUDIES – 2026 Summer Assignments

History Preview

Read chapters 1 and 2 of the "Give Me Liberty" textbook. Create a one page study guide for each chapter. Study guides will be collected on the first day of class.

INTO THE WILD

As you read Jon Krakauer's "Into the Wild" find one text quote for each of these details. If you choose a great quote, you should not have to explain why you chose it! Keep these quotes in a document that will be submitted on the first day of class. Each quote should be short (1-2 lines) and include a parenthetical citation with a page number.

Author's Note
1. Surprising Chris McCandless Information
2. A Hint about the author's opinion of Chris McCandless

Chapter One
2. Jim Gallien's perspective on Chris/Alex
3. Chris's level of preparedness

Chapter Two
4. Background information about the Stampede Trail
5. The discovery of Chris's body

Chapter Three
6. Wayne Westerberg's perspective on Chris/Alex
7. McCandless family background & contrasts with Westerberg

Chapter Four
8. The mystery of the yellow Datsun
9. Chris's feelings about the government and possessions

Chapter Five
10. Charlie's perspective on Chris/Alex
11. Life in the Slabs w/ Jan Burres

Chapter Six
12. Ronald Franz's perspective on Chris/Alex
13. Chris/Alex and his effect on others

Chapter Seven
14. Gail Borah's perspective on Chris/Alex
15. Chris's issues with his father

Chapter Eight
16. *Outside* readers' views on Chris McCandless

Chapter Nine
17. Everett Ruess and the possible parallels to Chris

Chapter Ten
18. How people in Chris's life found out about his death

Chapter Eleven
19. McCandless family background
20. Chris's social activism in his youth

Chapter Twelve
21. Details of Chris's early adventures across the country

Chapter Thirteen
22. Comparisons and contrasts between Chris and Carine
23. Familial reactions to Chris's death

Chapters Fourteen & Fifteen
24. Why young people do dangerous things

Chapters Sixteen & Seventeen
25. Chris's successes & struggles in the wilderness
26. Sir John Franklin and his relation (or not) to Chris

Chapter Eighteen
27. Chris's life lessons learned in the wild

Epilogue
28. Familial reactions to the site of Chris's death

READING LIST:

Summer:

1. Jon Krakauer “Into the Wild” 1996. **ISBN-13:** 978-0385486804

School Year:

1. “The Crucible” Arthur Miller 1952 ISBN-13: 978-0142437339
2. “Cannery Row” John Steinbeck 1945 ISBN-13: 978-0140187373
3. “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” ISBN-10: 1953649807
4. “All the Pretty Horses” Cormac McCarthy 1993 ISBN-10: 9780679744399
5. “The Shipping News” E. Annie Proulx 1993 ISBN-13: 978-0671510053
6. “Give Me Liberty” History Textbook