



Summer Reading Assignment
English II-Honors
A&M Consolidated High School



Purpose:

The summer reading assignment for English II-Honors is designed to do three things.

- (1) It will help you maintain your reading and writing skills over the summer so you don't get "stale."
- (2) It will provide your English II-Honors teachers with a sample of how you think and where your writing skills are so we can see where we're starting.
- (3) It will give us a spring board into the GROWTH theme for our course and provide discussion material for our first few weeks of school.

Book Choices:

You have a selection of three books to read, all by the same author.

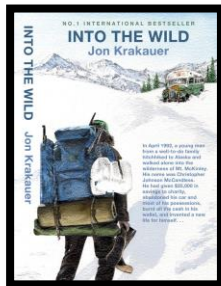
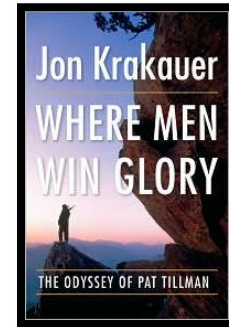


The author's name is Jon Krakauer. He is an American writer and mountaineer, primarily known for his writings about the outdoors, especially mountain-climbing. He is the author of many best-selling non-fiction books as well as numerous magazine articles.

Read the descriptions of the three books below. Think about which book sounds most interesting to you. You'll need to order a copy on-line, buy it at a local store, borrow a copy from a friend, or check one out from a local library.

Where Men Win Glory: The Odyssey of Pat Tillman

Written by Krakauer in 2009, this story is a biography of Pat Tillman, an American football player who left his \$3 million per year NFL career and enlisted in the United States Army after the September 11 attacks. To write the book, Krakauer drew heavily upon Tillman's journals, interviews with the Tillman family, interviews with his teammates and fellow soldiers, and extensive research on the ground in Afghanistan.

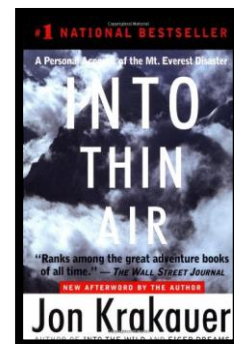


Into the Wild

In April 1992, a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. His name was Christopher Johnson McCandless. He 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. Four months later, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter. In this 1996 book by Krakauer, he re-traces the adventure McCandless had on the way to Alaska and examines how McCandless came to die alone in an abandoned bus in the woods.

Into Thin Air

This is a bestselling non-fiction book written by Krakauer in 1997. It details the author's presence at Mount Everest during the 1996 Mount Everest disaster, when eight climbers were killed and several others were stranded by a "rogue storm." The author's expedition was led by the famed guide Rob Hall, and there were other groups trying to summit on the same day. This book provides a first-hand, journalistic look at the events that led to the tragedy which took place on the mountain, and it is a look at what happens when men are forced to choose between survival and morality.



The Written Assignment:

For each book, there are four questions that you need to answer. Your answers must be in complete sentences and in paragraph form. Your answers should be approximately one page long for **each question** (3-4 pages total). Please keep the following requirements in mind when typing up your responses.



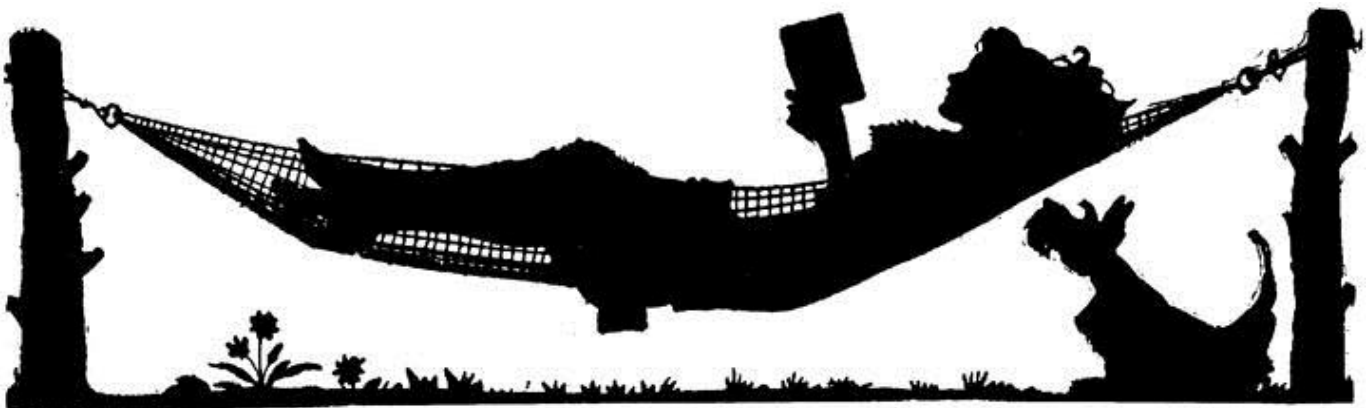
- (1) You must have a proper heading in the top left hand corner of the first page.

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- (2) You must include textual evidence from the book and cite it accordingly with the author's last name and the page number.
Example: ***When describing Pat Tillman, one of his former coaches said he "was special. He was a man of principle. He was a once-in-a-lifetime kid" (Krakauer 113).***
- (3) Your entire paper should be ***double spaced*** in ***Times New Roman, 12-point font***.
- (4) Save all of your responses as ***one document***. You will be submitting it to **turnitin.com** during the first week of school. This website checks your answers against the entire internet to make sure that your answers are original and not plagiarized. This is not group work. Do not use SparkNotes or other on-line study guides. If you can find it on the internet, so can **turnitin.com**, and it will cost you. ***Plagiarized responses, or responses that are the exact same as a classmate's, will receive a zero. This is not a good way to start the year. Do your own work!!***
- (5) Your typed final product will be turned in on the third day of school (**August 24**)

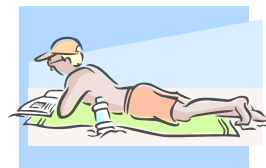
Remember that your ultimate job is to show us that you have read the book, understood it, and thought about it. Your grade will be based on the depth of original thought given to your answers beyond just plot summary, and on your ability to follow directions.

Enjoy your book!!





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For each novel, you have four responses to prepare. These responses are mostly chronological. In other words, once you've read approximately one third of the book, you should be able to answer part one. Once you've finished two thirds, you should be ready for part two; etc. Your responses should be well thought-out and organized. Do not just answer each of the questions in the box with one sentence and think you've covered the topic adequately. Those questions are there to guide you with crafting your answer. Think about all the questions in the box, and then organize your thoughts into a coherent response.

Questions for <i>Into the Wild</i>	Questions for <i>Into Thin Air</i>	Questions for <i>Where Men Win Glory: The Odyssey of Pat Tillman</i>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Part One: Discuss McCandless's friends</u></p> <p>Christopher McCandless makes many friends on the road on his way to Alaska. Identify at least three of these friends. What effect do they have on McCandless? How does he affect their lives? How do you think you would have reacted to McCandless if you had encountered him?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Part One: Describe the History of Climbing & Mt. Everest</u></p> <p>Describe the culture of mountain climbing. What did you learn about the sport, about the Sherpa culture, and about what it takes to climb Mt. Everest? Who do you think should be responsible for determining if/when someone is ready to attempt a Mt. Everest summit? Would you ever want to attempt to climb Everest?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Part One: Describe Tillman's Life Before the Military</u></p> <p>What was Tillman like as a kid? What was his family life like? What traits did he get from his family and from his childhood experiences that affected the athlete and soldier he became as an adult? Which character traits did he have that you can relate to?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Part Two: Analyze Krakauer's "tangents"</u></p> <p>Krakauer diverges from McCandless's story a little bit to tell some background information about other "wanderers" and seekers. Describe some of these tangents. How do they relate to McCandless's story? Why do you think Krakauer included these side stories? Did they add to your enjoyment and understanding of McCandless's story or did they distract you?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Part Two: Discuss The Climbers in the Tragedy</u></p> <p>There are many characters in this book other than Krakauer. Pick at least three to discuss. What do you like/dislike about these characters? Why? How much does Krakauer's view of these people affect your view? Does he let you form your own opinion on these characters or does he force his opinions on you?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Part Two: Discuss Tillman's Military Life</u></p> <p>What was life like for Pat Tillman in the military? How was he different from most of the other soldiers in his boot camp? What aspects of military life did he seem to like? Which aspects of military life did he seem to struggle with the most? Why?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Part Three: Describe Christopher's Family Life and Childhood</u></p> <p>Describe McCandless's family life. What factors in his home life and childhood influenced his actions after college? Which, if any, of his childhood experiences can you relate to? Do you think what he put his family members through was cruel, or did he have a right to do whatever he wanted to with his own life?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Part Three: Analyze Krakauer as a character and author</u></p> <p>Describe Jon Krakauer as a character and author. What kind of person is he? Do you like him as a person? Why or why not? What traits does he have that you can relate to? How balanced can your view of him be since he is the one telling you the story?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Part Three: Analyze Tillman's Death</u></p> <p>How did Tillman die? What were the effects of his death? How did the governments react? How did his family react? How did the events surrounding the cover up/falsifying of his death make you feel about your leaders? How would you feel if this had been one of your family members whose story was falsified?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Final Analysis</u></p> <p>Is Christopher McCandless a heroic character? What is your opinion of him after reading the book? Is he someone to look up to? Was he independent or selfish? Was he brave or naïve? Was he admirable or foolish? Explain your answers.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Final Analysis</u></p> <p>Who or what is ultimately to blame for the deaths that occurred on Mt. Everest? Which characters do you think acted admirably or heroically? Which characters do you think should feel guilty because of their actions?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Final Analysis</u></p> <p>What is Pat Tillman's ultimate legacy? Is he a heroic figure? What lessons did you learn while reading about his life that you could apply to your own life? Is there anything in here that affects the person you want to become as an adult?</p>