AP Language and Composition – Summer Assignment 2015

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1. Obtain a copy of the book *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer ISBN 0-385-48680-4. Read the entire book and complete a directed journal of your thoughts and reflections as you are reading. You are expected to have one entry for each of the 11 topics and completely answer the 5 questions. You will find these topics and questions below. I hope you will enjoy this compelling story.

The directed journal will be due the second week of school.

Information about obtaining a copy of the book:

- Our school library has 2 copies of the book that two of you may check out over the summer.
- The Lee County Public Library currently has 15 copies of this book. If your local library does not have a copy, you can reserve one in person, by phone, or on-line, and they will deliver it to your choice of library branches in a matter of 2-3 days. Any student may receive a library card by showing your school ID to your library branch.
- You may obtain an electronic version on your eReader.
- You may purchase the book from any bookstore, including Amazon, Barnes and Noble, etc.
- You may purchase a used copy from many sources such as:

  - www.amazon.com
  - www.half.com
  - www.abebooks.com
  - www.alibris.com
  - www.betterworldbooks.com
  - www.goodreads.com

2. Over the summer, read the newspaper (you can read an on-line paper) or watch the network news and be aware of current events. Presently, there are protests and demonstrations in major urban areas related to race and socio-economic issues, the Supreme Court is hearing arguments related to gay marriage rights and may rule that marriage between two same-sex partners is a constitutional right, ISIS is posing a threat globally and there are many other events are happening world-wide that affect our nation. Knowledge of the world and current events is crucial to your argumentative essay writing in AP Language and Composition, so you will be expected to have some awareness of the world, our nation, our state and how your life is affected.

Be prepared for a brief quiz over current events when you return to school the first week!

Please feel free to email over the summer with any questions, concerns, or problems you may encounter. The assigned book is a tragic story of a young man’s search for inner peace. There is a movie version that you may enjoy watching after you read. I am making this assignment easy and enjoyable, so you are expected to complete it to the best of your ability. I am looking forward to an enjoyable and productive year together!
Into the Wild Directed Journal and Questions

Directed Journal Entry Topics:

Find a quote that addresses each of the following topics in some way and explain how the quote is related to the topic. Number, label, and include the page number citation for each quote. Your explanation/commentary is equally important.

1. Death/Personal mortality
2. Adventure/Personal challenge
3. Relationships with family
4. Relationships with other people
5. Principles and Values
6. Connection with Nature
7. Wealth/Money/Material possessions
8. Planning/Preparation
9. Searching for Meaning/Self
10. Spirituality
11. Who was Chris McCandless?

Questions:

Answer each question thoughtfully and completely.

12. What do you think Krakauer’s goals were in writing the text?
13. Krakauer wrote, “no one was affected more powerfully by his or her brief contact with the boy than Ronald Franz” (48). How has your life or values been influenced by relationships with others?
14. Everett Ruess preferred the “deep peace of the wild to the discontent bred by cities” (87). What is it about cities that make people crave the wilderness, or what is it about the wilderness that draws humans to it?
15. There have been many speculations as to what led to the demise of Chris McCandless. What do you believe actually “killed” Chris McCandless?
16. Does Chris fit the definition of a tragic hero? What was his tragic flaw? How did it lead to his downfall? Do you ever feel sympathy for Chris?

Directed Journal Entry Example:

Topic 2 – Adventure/Personal Challenge

Quote: Chris’ dad described his adventurous spirit when he was a boy: “‘Chris was fearless even when he was little. He didn’t think the odds applied to him. We were always trying to pull him back from the edge.’ (109)” (Note: I used single and double quotes because I am quoting Chris’ dad’s words and also quoting from the book.)

Comments: There is a certain type of person that takes risks. This quote shows the reader that Chris has always had that spirit of adventure and has been a risk-taker even as a boy. That explains in part why he undertook such a difficult and dangerous adventure and did not think about what he needed as her headed into Alaska.