

Names: _____
Period: _____

Into the Wild Chapters 8-15 Discussion Questions

Please discuss each question below with your group and record your responses on this page.

Re-read Chapter 8, and consider the charges by others against Krakauer.

1. Should these charges be taken seriously? Why or why not?
2. Study the map that begins Ch. 9 and follow Rues's journey. Summarize it below.
3. Consider how the story of the *papar* (Irish monks) relates to the story of the outcasts that Krakauer discusses (Ch. 9).

After reading Ch. 11-13...

1. Consider McCandless' family history. Does that change your view of him?
2. Characterize each of McCandless's family members. What are their strengths and weaknesses?
3. Was McCandless reasonable in his reaction to his parents' past? Should he have forgiven them?
4. How do you think the information about his parents' difficulties early in their relationship affected McCandless?
5. Does his anger at them explain something about McCandless's choices in life?

6. Ch. 12 ends with his mother talking about a dream (nightmare?) that she had. Have you had a nightmare like that? Should we take dreams such as these seriously? Explain.

After reading Ch. 14-15...

1. Think about and jot down comparisons you see between McCandless's relationship with his father and Krakauer's relationship with his.
2. Do you think Krakauer understands McCandless? Why or why not?
3. Do you think Krakauer reads too much into McCandless's life because he feels some sort of affinity towards him?
4. Respond with your thoughts to the following quote: "It is easy, when you are young, to believe that what you desire is no less than what you deserve, to assume that if you want something badly enough, it is your God-given right to have it" (155).