

Post-Reading Questions

Into the Wild Ch. 16-18

Respond in your WNB (right page):

1. After a long detour, Krakauer brings us back to the scene of McCandless' death. What does he discuss in these chapters that he did not in previous chapters? Why did he delay presenting this information?
2. Krakauer provides many quotations from McCandless' journal in these chapters. What is McCandless talking about? Why did Krakauer include these selections?
3. Krakauer quotes one of McCandless' friends, who said that McCandless "was born in the wrong century" (174). Find this quote, and explain whether you believe it is true.

Epilogue Reflection

Write a 1-paragraph response detailing your reactions to the epilogue. You can write your own thoughts and feelings OR use the following questions to guide you:

1. What was your initial sense of McCandless' mental condition compared to what you think now?
2. What was your reaction to his parents as they visited the bus?
3. Comment on the last sentence of the epilogue. How might the disappearing visual of the bus parallel McCandless' journey?

Revisit Krakauer's 4 initial questions...

Should we admire McCandless for his courage and noble ideas?

Was he a reckless idiot?

Was he crazy?

Was he an arrogant and stupid narcissist?

Annotating the Text

Skim through Ch. 16-18 and the epilogue again.

1. List the various miscalculations and mistakes McCandless made.
2. Toward the end of Ch. 16, Krakauer tells us that McCandless read *Walden* by Thoreau. What ideals do you think Chris found most interesting, specifically related to food?
3. Have you ever fasted or know someone who has? What are some reasons for fasting?
4. Is this book a “literary work”? Why or why not?
5. To what extent do you think the book ends successfully?