Summer Read Assignments for AP Language

Summer Read: Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer.

You may purchase the novel or check it out from our Media Center.

All assignments are completed in MLA format and must be typed.

This novel is an engaging story about a young man, Chris McCandless, whose journey makes readers think about adventure, nature, and Transcendentalism. The main character, Chris, is given a limited amount of time to live, and because of this, Chris becomes inspired to come up with a list of experiences he would like to accomplish before it was his time to die. In a way, he was very successful. However, in another way, he disappointed himself in ways as well as the loved ones around him.

Assignment #1: As you read this novel this summer, I want you to keep track of your answers to the following questions. We will be discussing the novel the second or third week of school. Type out these answers (a few sentences each) on a separate paper.

At that time, we will go into depth on these questions:

Assignment #1 due for discussion on July 29th

1) How do we construct identify through our interests and values?
2) What is success to you?
3) What five things would be on your “Bucket List”? This is a list of activities you would like to do before you have to leave this place.
4) What is Chris’s relationship between nature and identity?
5) What does it mean to be a rebel?
6) To what extent is community essential to someone’s success?

Assignment #2 on another piece of paper: This will be due July 31st

This assignment is a short essay. I want you to type a 500-word essay about ideals and our ability to live up to them. What is the purpose of ideals in terms of how we live our lives? Are we hypocrites when we do not live up to these ideals. How?

Assignment #3: Second essay: August 6th

Type a 500-750 word essay about the relationship between adventure and comfort. To what extent is being comfortable and happy a deterrent to risk taking? Use at least three textual examples to support your answer.
Assignment #4 due August 2nd

Annotations should not get in the way of your reading—they should engage your own reflection and analysis of particular aspects of the work. You need to write these annotations as you read; otherwise, you will have to go back and reread the entire book. I am asking you to annotate for six pieces of information for this book. Your annotations examples need to come from all areas of the book. If you already took a quote from the beginning, then take the next quote from the middle of the book.

Your job is to consider this novel through this a variety of lenses and discover HOW the author goes about treating the subject. THINK about what you are noting—and consider its significance. Do not just write in the book to write—make notes that allow you to assess the author’s purpose. b. Process: You can underline directly in your own copy of the novel and note your ideas in the margin, you can use sticky-notes to take notes and place them directly on the pages, or you could maintain a “reading journal” if that suits you better.

As you are reading the book, it is beneficial to annotate the book. Do not put your annotations in the book or on post-it notes (that is for later). Just write the following on a separate piece of paper

All novels and nonfiction have a beginning, middle, and end. I will always ask that you take examples and quotes from the entire book. Therefore, your first annotation will be to provide a quote from the beginning of the novel that shows Krakauer’s purpose for writing this story. Do not forget to cite using the page number only, since we are only using one book for citations.

A) From the middle of the nonfiction piece, write a quote that shows how important McCandless’s goals have become.

B) From the end of the book, find a quote that shows how McCandless’s various experiences have truly affected his life.

C) Annotate for Krakauer’s use of nature moves the plot along. Write down three quotes from the book, which show nature moving the plot.

D) Annotate showing how Krakauer puts himself into this story.

E) Annotate three examples in the book, which shows realism.

F) Transcendentalism is (defined by Emerson) is idealism as it appears in 1842. It was a call to individuals to turn their backs on the materialism, industrialism, and corporate aspects of the world and to explore the mental, emotional, and spiritual aspects. In 3-5 sentences, explain what transcendentalism is to you.