



Summer Reading 2015
Upper School Humanities
English 11
Ms. Walsh

ENTERING ENGLISH 11

Course Essential Questions

1. What does it mean to be a good writer and how do I know I am improving in this area?
2. What does it mean to engage and contextualize when reading?
3. What does it mean to be an American?

Summer Assignment

Read and annotate Jon Krakauer's *Into The Wild*.

Write an essay on the following topic:

Through Chris McCandless's journal, we can determine he had certain literary heroes. Among those most notable, Henry David Thoreau and his work, *Walden*. Thoreau was one of the first influential American writers in the Transcendentalism period. Along with the excerpts found in your copy of *Into The Wild*, use the following excerpts from Thoreau's *Walden* to explain his influence on Chris McCandless. How does Thoreau's work and Chris McCandless's life experience help us to define what it means to be an American? Use evidence from the text to support your claim.

N.B.: *Into The Wild* text and *Walden* excerpts should be heavily annotated. Bring both of these annotated items to class with you.