

American Literature HH Required Summer Reading Assignment

Due: first day back to school, fall 2008-2009

This summer you are required to read the novel *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer. Man's role in nature is the predominant theme of *Into the Wild*. The subject of the book, Chris McCandless, believes that man's ultimate joy can only be found in communion with nature. However, nature is a fickle beast, turning from friendly ally to cruel enemy in the blink of an eye. While and after reading the novel, you will complete the following:

First-

- Annotate the entire novel focusing on passages which show McCandless's relationship with nature (both positive and negative).
- Make an observation (O) based on the evidence (E) you have gathered about nature's role in the novel. Remember, an observation is not a fact from the novel, but rather a conclusion you have drawn based on your careful and active reading.
- Use your observation and your gathered evidence to write an OEA paragraph* in which you provide at least **two** pieces of evidence to support your observation or argument.
- Remember to include at least three sentences of analysis (A) for each piece of evidence you have selected from the text.
- This paragraph should be at least **twelve** sentences in length and typed in Times New Roman, size 12 font.

Next-

- Write a 1-2 page typed reader response to the following:

In providing a narrative of McCandless's journey, Krakauer draws on the writings Chris left behind in the blank pages and margins of his books, and on the walls of the bus where he spent his final months. What does all this writing tell Krakauer about McCandless's motives for heading off into the wild? Is it possible to escape from civilization in the twenty-first century? Does it make sense to try?

* If you did not attend Lincoln Park High School as a freshman, you may not be familiar with the OEA process of literary analysis. If this is the case analyze the literature in the way you have been taught.