

INTO THE WILD EXAM PART I & II STUDY GUIDE

DATE:

75 points

Part I: 30 Multiple Choice (1 pt/each)

Most questions will have been reviewed in the jeopardy game. Questions will be on the plot, characters, setting, and author information for *Into the Wild*

Part III: 3 Quotation Explications (15 pts/each)

I will choose 3 quotes from the following. You will be able to use your copy of *Into the Wild* on this portion of the exam, but BEWARE...time will loom large and those who are prepared will not need their book. **Remember to give a brief context, a solid analysis and/or synthesis.**

POSSIBLE QUOTES:

1. "If this adventure proves fatal and you don't ever hear from me again...I now walk into the wild. Alex" (3).
2. "SOS I NEED YOUR HELP. I AM INJURED, NEAR DEATH, AND TOO WEAK TO HIKE OUT OF HERE. I AM ALL ALONE. THIS IS NO JOKE. IN THE NAME OF GOD, PLEASE REMAIN TO SAVE ME. I AM OUT COLLECTING BERRIES CLOSE BY AND SHALL RETURN THIS EVENING. THANK YOU, CHRIS MCCANDLESS, AUGUST?" (12)
3. "I'm going to have to be real careful not to accept any gifts from them in the future because they will think they have bought my respect" (21).
4. "No longer would he answer to Chris McCandless; he was now Alexander Supertramp" (23)
5. "But [Everett] and McCandless, at least they tried to follow their dream. That's what was great about them. They tried. Not many do" (96).
6. "'EXEMPT EXEMPT EXEMPT EXEMPT...Address: 'None of your damn business'" (101).
7. Two years after Chris was born, Walt fathered another son—Quinn McCandless—with Marcia" (121).
8. "For a few minutes the roof of the bus remains visible among the stunted trees, a tiny white gleam in a wild green sea, growing smaller and smaller, and then it's gone (203).

OTHER QUOTATIONS TO CONSIDER FOR SYNTHESIS PURPOSES:

McCandless was stirred by the austerity of the landscape, by its saline beauty. The desert sharpened the sweet ache of his longing, amplified it, gave shape to it, in sere geology and clean slant of light” (32)

“McCandless read and reread *The Call of the Wild*, *White Fang*, “*To Build a Fire*,” “*An Odyssey of the North*,” “*The Wit of Porportuk*.” He was so enthralled by these tales, however, that he seemed to forget they were works of fiction, constructions of the imagination that had more to do with London’s romantic sensibilities than with the actualities of life in the subarctic wilderness. McCandless conveniently overlooked the fact that London himself had spent just a single winter in the North and that he’d died by his own hand” (44).

“*ALEX* is inscribed at the belt’s left end; then the initials CJM (for Christopher Johnson McCandless) frame a skull and crossbones” (51)

“You are wrong if you think Joy emanates only or principally from human relationships...It is in everything and anything we might experience. We just have to have the courage to turn against our habitual lifestyle and engage in unconventional living” (57).

“I now walk out to live amongst the wild...Alexander (69).

Some insight into the tragedy of Chris McCandless can be gained by studying predecessors cut from the same exotic cloth (85).

“He was an extremely intense young man and possessed a streak of stubborn idealism that did not mesh readily with modern existence” Author’s note.

“Children can be harsh judges when it comes to their parents, disinclined to grant clemency” (122).

My father’s faith in this blueprint was unshakable” (148).

“I thought climbing the Devil’s Thumb would fix all that was wrong with my life. In the end, of course, it changed almost nothing. But I came to appreciate that mountains make poor receptacles for dreams” (155).

“*NO LONGER TO BE POISONED BY CIVILIZATION HE FLEES, AND WALKS ALONE UPON THE LAND TO BECOME LOST IN THE WILD. ALEXANDER SUPERTRAMP 1992*” (163).

“THE MOOSE (167).

“HAPPINESS ONLY REAL WHEN SHARED” (189).

“EXTREMELY WEAK, FAULT OF POT. SEED. MUCH TROUBLE JUST TO STAND UP. STARVING. GREAT JEOPARDY” (189).

“TRAPPED IN THE WILD—NO GAME” (195).

“I HAVE HAD A HAPPY LIFE AND THANK THE LORD. GOODBYE AND MAY GOD BLESS ALL!” (199)

“It is the experiences, the memories, the great triumphant joy of living to the fullest extent in which real meaning is found.”

“Curiously, Chris didn’t hold everyone to the same exacting standards.”

“Don’t settle down and sit in one place. Move around, be nomadic, make each day a new horizon. You are still going to live a long time...and it would be a shame if you did not take the opportunity to revolutionize your life and move into an entirely new realm of experience.”

“Some people feel like they don’t deserve love. They walk away quietly into empty spaces, trying to close the gaps of the past.”

“I read somewhere... how important it is in life not necessarily to be strong, but to feel strong... to measure yourself at least once.”

“I’m going to paraphrase Thoreau here... rather than love, than money, than faith, than fame, than fairness... give me truth.”

“What if I were smiling and running into your arms? Would you see then what I see now?”

“The core of mans' spirit comes from new experiences.”

“It is easy, when you are young, to believe that what you desire is no less than what you deserve.”

“It is true that I miss intelligent companionship, but there are so few with whom I can share the things that mean so much to me that I have learned to contain myself. It is enough that I am surrounded with beauty...”

“I understood what he was doing, that he had spent four years fulfilling the absurd and tedious duty of graduating from college and now he was emancipated from that world of abstraction, false security, parents, and material excess.”

“At long last he was unencumbered, emancipated from the stifling world of his parents and peers, a world of abstraction and security and material excess, a world in which he felt grievously cut off from the raw throb of existence.”

“On July 2, McCandless finished reading Tolstoy's "Family Happiness", having marked several passages that moved him: "He was right in saying that the only certain happiness in life is to live for others...”

“The trip was to be an odyssey in the fullest sense of the word, an epic journey that would change everything.”

“He'd tell us to think about all the evil in the world, all the hatred, and imagine ourselves running against the forces of darkness, the evil wall that was trying to keep us from running our best. He believed that doing well was all mental, a simple matter of harnessing whatever energy was available.”

“The fragility of crystal is not a weakness but a fineness. My parents understood that fine crystal glass had to be cared for or may be shattered. But when it came to my brother, they didn't seem to know or care that their course of their secret action brought the kind of devastation that could cut them... He felt his whole life turned like a river suddenly reversing the direction of its flow. Suddenly running uphill. These revelations struck at the core of Chris's sense of identity. They made his entire childhood seem like fiction. Chris never told them he knew.”

“As she studies the pictures, she breaks down from time to time...betraying a sense of loss so huge and irreparable that the mind balks at taking its measure. Such bereavement, witnessed at close range, makes even the most eloquent apologia for high-risk activities ring fatuous and hollow (132).

“The desert sharpened the sweet ache of his longing, amplified it, gave shape to it in sere geology and clean slant of light.”

“The joy of life comes from our encounters with new experiences, and hence there is no greater joy than to having an endlessly changing horizon, for each day to have a new and different sun.”

“But [Everett] and McCandless, at least they tried to follow their dream. That's what was great about them. They tried. Not many do.”

“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... a raw youth who mistook passion for insight.”

“Alaska has long been a magnet for dreamers and misfits, people who think the unsullied enormity of the Last Frontier will patch all the holes in their loves. The bush is an unforgiving place, however, that care nothing for hope or longing.”

“It is the experiences, the memories, the great triumphant joy of living to the fullest extent in which real meaning is found. God it's great to be alive! Thank you. Thank you.”

“When Alex left for Alaska," Franz remembers, "I prayed. I asked God to keep his finger on the shoulder of that one; I told him that boy was special. But he let Alex die..I decided I couldn't believe in a God who would let something that terrible happen to a boy like Alex.”

“I think maybe part of what got him into trouble was that he did too much thinking. Sometimes he tried too hard to make sense of the world, to figure out why people were bad to each other so often.”