



Summer Reading, CAP Honors 9  
English  
Into the Wild, Jon Krakauer

Directions are important; please follow them. Read *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer. Type your answers to the following questions in 10 or 12 pt. font. Please double-space your responses (skip lines). Staple this sheet to the front of your responses. Please, no folders. Spelling and grammar always count! All responses must be written in present tense! Please proofread. I will not accept hand-written responses, or those that are **not** double-spaced. Your responses should be no more than six pages. All responses must be written in complete sentences. Note: These are not short-answer questions.

Please answer the following questions:

1. Think about Chris's relationship with his family. Does inclusion of this back-story make the reader more or less sympathetic to him? Do you sympathize with his parents? His sister, Carine?
2. Compare Chris's relationship with his parents and the people he interacts with at Emory, to his relationships with people he meets on the road? What makes them so different?
3. "For these were a life in conformity to higher principles," according to Henry David Thoreau. What do you think Thoreau meant by this? What is it to lead a life that conforms to higher principles?
4. Henry David Thoreau wrote, "rather than love, than money, than fame, give me truth" (117). McCandless highlights this passage and writes "truth" above it. Why do you think McCandless identifies with this quote?
5. Chris flees intimacy, friendship, and baggage. How does that affect the people close to him? How does that affect him? Is his escape into the wild really a painless transition for anyone, including Chris?
6. Chris marks the following passage in Tolstoy's *Family Happiness*, "He was right in saying that the only certain happiness in life is to live for others" and then writes "Happiness only real when shared." Why do you think McCandless marks this passage? What does he mean by this inscription.
7. Some people believe that McCandless was on a suicide mission. Krakauer believes that Chris was just seeking something greater than himself. Do you believe Chris ever intended to return from Alaska? Does Chris intend for his journey to end as it does?
8. Chris sets out to "kill the false being within." What does he mean by this?
9. Unlike Thoreau, McCandless goes into the wilderness not primarily to ponder the nature of the world at large but, rather, to explore the inner country of his own soul." Why do you think that he does this?
10. What are your impressions of Chris? Is he noble? Reckless? Selfish? Courageous?
11. Many readers find it hard to have sympathy for Chris McCandless. His stubborn idealism and lack of preparedness, as some have pointed out, show arrogance. Yet to others he is a hero. Critics point to Krakauer's power as a writer to evoke sympathy for him. Where do you stand?
12. Chris McCandless' story is still talked about today. What do you think his legacy is?
13. Chris thinks that one should own nothing except what one can carry on his/her back. What do you think of this belief? What is the value of a minimalist lifestyle?
14. Chris "believed that wealth is shameful, corrupting, (and) inherently evil." What are your thoughts on wealth accumulation? Does it corrupt?
15. Krakauer notes that risk-taking is a rite of passage. Do you agree?
16. How does your reading of *Into the Wild* influence your goals for high school, college, and plans for after college?

# Montgomery Blair High School

## Communication Arts Program Summer Reading Project

### History:

Read *Triangle: The Fire that Changed America* by David Von Drehle OR *Red Summer: The Summer of 1919 and the Awakening of Black America* by Cameron McWhirter and answer the questions associated with the book you chose to read. The summer reading assignment is due the first day of class and should be typed.

### ***Triangle: The Fire that Changed America:***

**A) The first 4 chapters of the book describe life in New York City during the Gilded Age (1890-1914). Using information from these chapters, write answers for each of the following prompts. Each answer will require a developed paragraph. For each answer you will need to have two (2) quotes from the book which support your analysis. Each quote will be followed by the page number in parenthesis. For example: "Senderman noticed Teschner on the smoke-shrouded roof, 'shivering like a fish,' crying like a baby,' and ready to jump over the side" (137).**

1. What role did Tammany Hall play in New York politics and society during this period?
2. What role did women play in New York in organizing unions and promoting female suffrage?
3. Briefly describe the garment industry in New York.
4. Analyze the "Uprising" in terms of whether it succeeded or failed and explain why.
5. Describe one significant aspect of the life of Eastern European immigrants during this time period.

**B) Chapters 5,6 & 7 describe the actual fire and its immediate aftermath based on the recollections of survivors. Based on these, create your own account of the fire from the perspective of one of the first firemen to arrive on the scene. It should be written as a diary entry and be no more than one page and no shorter than a half page in length.**

**C) Chapters 8 & 9 detail the consequences of the fire. For each of the questions below write a developed paragraph (6-8 sentences with a topic sentence).**

- 1) Describe the major reforms that resulted from the fire.
- 2) Why did this event have such a profound effect, when similar events before the Triangle Fire had little or no effect?
- 3) What were the results of the "Trial"? Why does the author think the "Trial" ended that way? What do you think about the results?

### ***Red Summer:***

#### ***The Summer of 1919 and the Awakening of Black America Reading Questions***

**For questions 1-10 you will need to have one quote from the book which support your analysis. Each quote will be followed by the page number in parenthesis. For example: "Senderman noticed Teschner on the smoke-shrouded roof, 'shivering like a fish,' crying like a baby,' and ready to jump over the side" (137).**

**Chapters 2 and 3 [Answer the following with short constructed responses (3-5 sentences each)]**

1. How were the attitudes of African Americans transformed by WWI and the Great Migration?
2. What other events outside of the United States led to many to conclude that the world was on fire? Name at least 2 and explain how they affected American attitudes.

**Chapters 4 & 5 (Answer these questions with short 1-2 sentence responses)**

3. Who founded the NAACP? In what ways was it different from other African American advocacy groups?

4. What impact did the National Conference of Lynching have on the NAACP? Explain in a brief paragraph.

**Chapters 6- 11 [Answer the following with short constructed responses (3-5 sentences- each should begin with a well-developed topic sentence that clearly takes a position in response to the question)]**

5. Compare how local government officials and military leaders responded to riots in Charleston, SC with those in Ellisville, Mississippi, Jacksonville, Florida and Washington D.C.

6. According to Harry A Bellows, author of "Treatise of Riot Duty for the National Guard" what was the key to controlling riots?

7. How did Carlo Valdinoci impact J. Edgar Hoover and Alexander Mitchell Palmer's political agenda? How did the change in each government official's political views impact race relations?

8. What do books like *The Klansman* and *The Decline of the West* tell us about white attitudes towards race and the new immigrants of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century? Explain.

9. How did black attitudes towards whites change in 1919 as a result of the mob violence, the Great Migration and WWI? Read Claude McKay's "If We Must Die" and analyze poem in response to the question.

10. Describe President Wilson's attitudes towards African Americans. What policies did he implement that help the reader better understand his attitude.

**Chapters 12-14:**

11. Imagine you are the mayor of Chicago. Write a journal entry describing race relations in Chicago, who or what is to blame for the race riots and how you intend to prevent future race riots. (2-3 paragraphs)

**Chapter 15-18: (1 well developed paragraph)**

12. How did the NAACP come to be the principle organization to advocate on behalf of black civil rights?

**Chapter 19-The End:**

Speculate why the race riots of the 1919 receive scant mention in most US History books.