English Summer Reading Assignment

Please read *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer and answer the following questions. Answers must be typed, and double-spaced. Please write in complete sentences and keep in mind that some of the responses are not short-answer ones. Please staple your response in the left-hand corner of this page, and make sure that you put your name on the assignment. Please double-space your answers and please write in present tense. **Responses to these questions are due on the first day of school. Responses should be no more than three typed pages total.**

1. Describe the setting of this book.

2. Krakauer describes how Japanese climbers run into Indian climbers who are close to death. Instead of helping them, the Japanese men continue on their ascent, and all three Indian men die. This leaves the reader wondering whether morality is conditional; in other words, are there conditions or situations in which the definition of morality changes, or is morality always the same no matter what the condition? Describe what you think and give an example.

4. Why do you think that people risk their lives to climb mountains?

5. Who or what do you think is culpable for the deaths of the climbers?

6. Why is Krakauer, as are other climbers, upset by the commercialization of Mt. Everest?

7. How does Krakauer characterize Sandy Pittman? How is her role related to the theme of the book?

8. Krakauer appears to have “survival guilt” – guilt for acts of commission or omission that result in the death of others. He might also have had “imagined guilt”, whereby one believes himself to have been capable of preventing harm or death to others, when in fact, they have been unable to act. Which, if any of these, does Krakauer appear to have? What is your evidence? Include a quote that supports your view.

9. “Self-reliance” is one the book’s motifs. Why is “self-reliance” so important when mountain climbing?

10. Another motif of the novel is the arrogance of the climbers, who believe that they are stronger than nature. How is this exemplified?

11. What are Krakauer’s unanswered questions at the end of his narrative?

Thanks, and have an enjoyable summer!

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Photography Drama

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English History
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.

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

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 20th 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.

Thanks, and have an enjoyable summer!

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