Study Questions for *Into the Wild*

**Chapter 1**

1. **What date does Jim Gallien pick up the hitchhiker?**

2. **By the time he drops off the hitchhiker what does Jim Gallien think of him?**

3. **By the end of the chapter what do you know about the hitchhiker?**

**Chapter 2**

1. **Describe the land where Alex disappears.**

2. **Who visits the bus and what do they find? What date is it?**

3. **Write down what you have found out about Alex.**

**Chapter 3**

1. **What was Alex' adopted home like? When did he first arrive there?**

2. **What was his real home like?**

3. **What do you find out about his family?**

4. **By the end of the chapter, what additional facts do you know about Alex?**

**Chapter 4**

1. **What happens when Chris/Alex drives the Datsun into the Lake Mead National Recreation Area?**
2. What do his parents think?

3. Where does Chris/Alex travel in this chapter and what in the time-line? (What dates are covered?)

4. By the end of the chapter what do we learn about Chris/Alex' view of money and belongings?

**Chapter 5**

1. What did the people in Bullhead City think of Chris/Alex?

2. Describe the Slabs in your own words.

3. What is the irony about Jack London?

4. What do we learn about Chris/Alex in this chapter?

5. Trace the time-line in this chapter.

**Chapter 6**

1. What changes do you notice in the narrative stance of Chapter 6?

2. Why did they send Krakauer (the writer) a letter from Ronald Franz?

3. In Chris/Alex's letter to Ron Franz he reveals his philosophy of life. This is important for an understanding of what happened to him. Summarize his ideas in your own words.

4. What did the Krakauer learn when he visited Franz?

**Chapter 7**

1. What was Chris/Alex's relationship to his family?

2. What was his relationship to people in general?
3. How does the writer know all this?

4. When did Wayne Westerberg last see Alex?

**Chapter 8**

1. When people read about Chris McCandless' death what was their reaction?

2. Why does Krakauer write about other eccentric people?

3. How does Chris/Alex compare to these other people?

**Chapter 9**

1. Krakauer spends an entire chapter on Everett Rueess. How is Russ similar to McCandless and how is he different?

2. What connection do the Irish monks have with McCandless? Or, why did Krakauer bring them into this story?

3. What is your response to this section of the book?

**Chapter 10**

1. What do we find out in Chapter 10?

**Chapter 11**

1. Remembering Chris/Alex's letter to Ron Franz, how do you think Chris felt about his parents' lifestyle?

2. What did Chris inherit from his father?

3. What do we find out in this chapter that helps explains Chris' disappearance?

4. Trace a time-line for Chris in this chapter.
**Chapter 12**

1. **What discovery did Chris make about his parents in El Segundo? Why was this important?**

2. **What was Chris' emotional state during his last year of college?**

3. **Why didn't Chris contact his family after he disappeared?**

4. **How did his parents feel during this time?**

5. **What do you think of Chris' attitude and that of his parents?**

**Chapter 13**

1. **What do we learn during this chapter?**

2. **How does this chapter make you feel about Chris, and about his mother and sister?**

**Chapter 14**

1. **Why does Krakauer identify with Chris?**

2. **What does Krakauer do and how is that like Chris?**

3. **Why do you think Krakauer writes about himself in this chapter?**

**Chapter 15**

1. **How is Krakauer's relationship with his father like Chris' relationship with Walt McCandless?**
2. What comparisons does Krakauer make between his climb and Chris McCandless' attempt to live in the Alaskan wilderness?

3. Track the timeline of Chris' trip to Alaska. How does he get there?

4. Where is the first place Chris/Alex goes and what does he buy there?

5. What does he carry with him into the wilderness?

6. What does Alexander Supertramp's manifesto on page 163 mean?

7. Trace the timeline and food consumption in this chapter.

8. How does Krakauer know Chris/Alex intended to leave the wilderness? What stops him?

Chapter 16

1. Why is Krakauer successful at crossing the river? What does he have that Chris McCandless didn't have?

2. Why does Krakauer want to go to the bus?

3. What does Krakauer find inside the bus and how does it make you feel?

4. How does Krakauer defend Chris McCandless in this chapter?

Chapter 17

1. What does Krakauer speculate happens to Chris in this chapter?

2. Trace the timeline to Chris McCandless' death.

3. On the note he wrote on page 197-8, why do you think he uses the name Chris McCandless instead of Alexander Supertramp?
4. How do you think Chris McCandless feels at the end of his life?

EPILOGUE

Write a response to Walt and Billie McCandless' visit to the bus.

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