



MILLER SCHOOL
of ALBEMARLE

Summer Reading Assignment

Course: AP English 12 – AP English Literature and Composition

Grade: 12th

Teachers: Mr. Jay Kauffmann

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Required Book: *Into the Wild*, by Jon Krakauer (ISBN: 978-0385486804)

Please read Jon Krakauer's *Into the Wild*, and consider the ten key tenets of Transcendentalism, <https://libertyenglish11.wikispaces.com/file/view/Major+Tenets+of+Transcendentalism.pdf>

Also, read Ralph Waldo Emerson's essay on "Self-Reliance,"

<http://www.emersoncentral.com/essays1.htm>

and parts of Emerson's "Nature" ("Introduction," "Nature"),

<http://www.emersoncentral.com/nature.htm>

And, lastly, read an excerpt from Henry David Thoreau's *Walden* ("Where I Lived & What I Lived For"):

<http://thoreau.eserver.org/walden02.html>

Then write a three- to five-page essay, using a minimum of six quotations, in which you consider Chris McCandless's journey from American suburbia to the wilds of Alaska, and discuss how the ideas of Transcendentalism inspired and motivated him on his quest. Your answers are due on the first day of class.