

AP English Language & Composition

Dear 2017-2018 A.P. Language and Composition Students:

I look forward to working with you and diving deeper into the English language. The A.P. English Language and Composition course will focus on rhetorical devices, in-depth literary analysis, fiction, non-fiction, grammar, A.P. Exam practice, current issues, and an abundance of writing.

Your summer reading will be *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer.

A mini-description of *Into the Wild*:

In April 1992, a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. His name was Christopher Johnson McCandless. He had given \$25,000 in savings to charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet, and invented a new life for himself. Four months later, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter. How McCandless came to die is the unforgettable story of *Into the Wild*.

There are 2 parts to your Summer Reading Assignment.

1. Read *Into the Wild* and complete the accompanying questions (attached). I highly recommend that you complete your assignment using Google Docs, located in your Student Portal. Then, turn your answers into the Google Classroom account created for your summer assignment. You can download the App to your phone or search Google Classroom. Using your student login, sign into the program and enter the code: **grcolf**

a. Each of the questions must be answered thoroughly and thoughtfully with specific evidence (quotations) from the text.

b. Responses must be in your own words (all references to other sources, including the text, must be cited appropriately). This is an individual assignment. Your answers should NOT exactly match another student. Any work that is plagiarized (stealing the ideas or words of another) will result in a ZERO on this assignment for all students involved.

c. This is your first chance to show me your best writing. There should be no spelling or grammatical mistakes on your paper. This is the place for formal diction (no slang or colloquialisms—I am old and won't understand what you are saying). This should be final-draft quality. Papers must be typed in size 12, Times New Roman font. If you do not have a computer, go to a friend's house or the public library. Or, better yet, use Google Docs which can be an App on your smartphone.

2. Create flashcards for the attached list of important terms to know for AP Lang. Write the term on the blank side of the card and the definition on the other side of the card. Please use index cards that are big enough for you to add examples of each device (we will be adding these throughout the year). Please handwrite these (there is knowledge to be gained therein) as opposed to cutting and pasting/typing.

This summer assignment will be due no later than **Friday, August 25**).

Advanced Placement English Language and Composition will be a highly rigorous course, but we will have fun tackling the content together. Feel free to email me with any questions you have about the assignment. Have a wonderful summer!

Ms. Courtney Brinton
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Part 1 – *Into the Wild*

Chapters 1-3; pages 3-23

1. After reading chapter 1, use two adjectives to describe your impressions of Chris McCandless (Alex). Explain and support each adjective with a specific quote from the chapter.
2. After graduating college, McCandless begins, “an epic journey that would change everything” (22). He saw his time in college as “an absurd and onerous duty” (22). In heading west he felt freed “from the stifling world of his parents and peers, a world of abstraction and security and material excess” (22). Using examples from the reading explain what he meant by this. Do you agree with his motivation for leaving?

Chapters 4 and 5; pages 25-46

3. Chapter 4 ends with the following quote from McCandless’ journal: “It is the experiences, the memories, the great triumphant joy of living to the fullest extent in which real meaning is found” (37). Identify an experience from this chapter and explain what “meaning” you think Alex has found. Use a quote to support your explanation.
4. What does “Plastic People” in chapter five mean? What are two things McCandless considered plastic? Do you agree with his assessment? Support your answer with a quote.

Chapters 6 and 7; pages 47-69

5. Ronald Franz and McCandless establish a father-son type of relationship. Identify one benefit or drawback (using a quote) that each gets out of the relationship.
6. Before McCandless leaves for Alaska, Wayne Westerberg offers to buy him a plane ticket. McCandless refuses, however, claiming, “flying would be cheating. It would wreck the whole trip” (67). Find and explain two quotes from this chapter that demonstrate whether or not McCandless actually lives by his own words.

Chapters 10 and 11; pages 98-116

7. Identify two qualities that Walt McCandless and his son have in common. Support each quality with a quote from the text.
8. Identify two specific details or examples (using quotes) from Chris McCandless’ childhood/high school years that seem to predict his later behavior. What is it about these events that help to explain his actions as an adult?

Chapter 12, pages 117-126; Chapter 14-15, page 133-56

9. Contrast McCandless’ feelings about his family with his family’s feelings about him. How does the Thoreau quote that opens the chapter match Chris’ feelings about his family? Support your points with two quotes from the reading.
10. Krakauer admits to not being an “impartial biographer” (ii). How do his experiences (particularly his own journey into the wild (pp.133-56) comments and opinions add to or take away from Chris’ story? Support your answer with specific details from these chapters.

Chapter 16, pages 157 – 171; Chapter 17; pages 172 - 186

11. Read the italicized passage on page 168 that McCandless wrote and the italicized passage he highlighted from Tolstoy on page 169. Based on these writings and events in this chapter, what convinced McCandless that it was time to return to civilization? What did he learn from his time “in the wild”? Support your answer with specific details.
12. Krakauer observes that it is not “unusual for a young man to be drawn to a pursuit considered reckless by his elders.” Identify two details from this chapter where McCandless exemplifies this observation. Explain whether or not McCandless would agree with Krakauer. Finally compare McCandless’ view with that of one of the following men mentioned in this chapter: Andy Horowitz, Gordon Samel, Roman Dial, Sir John Franklin.
13. Krakauer goes on to claim that McCandless’ “life hummed with meaning and purpose. But the meaning he wrested from existence lay beyond the comfortable path.” Do you agree with Krakauer? Support your response with two specific quotes from this chapter.

Chapters 18 and Epilogue; pages 185-203

14. How does the Doctor Zhivago quote that opens the chapter foreshadow McCandless’ actions and writings later in the chapter? Cite two specific examples using quotations from the text.
15. Do you believe McCandless is to blame for his own death? Explain your answer using two specific details from the chapter. Use quotations to support your response.

Summer Reading Assignment – Part 2 – Flashcards

Directions: Create flashcards for each of the terms and definitions listed. These terms will be utilized throughout the duration of the school year and are an important component of the AP exam. Leave enough room on each card to cite examples in the future. You must handwrite these (no cutting and pasting typed text).

1. rhetorical question: a question asked solely to produce an effect and not to elicit a reply
2. refutation: when a writer delivers relevant opposing arguments
3. allegory: a narrative in which character, action, and setting represent abstract concepts apart from the literal meaning of a story - the underlying meaning usually has a moral, social, religious, or political significance
4. metonymy: the substitution of a term naming an object closely associated with the word in mind for the word itself
5. qualifier: a statement that indicates the force of the argument
6. declarative sentence: makes a statement (sentence type)
7. interrogative sentence: asks a question (sentence type)
8. imperative sentence: gives a command (sentence type)
9. exclamatory sentence: makes an interjection (Sentence type)
10. thesis: the central claim and overall purpose of a work
11. bias: a predisposition or subjective opinion
12. anecdote: a short account of an interesting or humorous incident, intended to illustrate or support a point
13. analogy: a comparison to a directly parallel case; the process of drawing a comparison between two things based on a partial similarity of like features
14. idiom: an expression that means something other than the literal meanings of its individual words
15. tone: the voice and attitude the writer has chosen to project
16. mood: the overall atmosphere of a work and the mood is how that atmosphere makes a reader feel
17. antithesis: a contrast in language to bring out a contrast in ideas
18. allusion: a brief reference to a person, event, or place - real or fictitious - or to a work of art
19. juxtaposition: placing two ideas side by side or close together
20. anticipating audience response: the rhetorical technique of anticipating counterarguments and offering a refutation
21. euphemism: substitutions of an inoffensive, indirect, or agreeable expression for a word or phrase perceived as socially unacceptable or harsh
22. paradox: a phrase or statement that while seeming contradictory or absurd may actually be well founded or true. Used to attract attention or to secure emphasis
23. cliché: a timeworn expression that through overuse has lost its power to evoke concrete images
24. irony: the discrepancy between appearance and reality: verbal, situational, dramatic, and Socratic
25. oxymoron: a self-contradictory combination of words
26. logos: appealing to logical reasoning and sound evidence
27. ethos: appealing to the audience's shared values
28. pathos: evoking and manipulating emotions
29. aphorism: a concise or tersely phrased statement in principle, truth, or opinion. Often found in fields like law, politics, and art
30. deductive reasoning: method of reasoning that moves from a general premise to a specific conclusion
31. inductive reasoning: method of reasoning that moves from specific evidence to a general conclusion based on this evidence
32. diction: choice of words in a work and an important element of style
33. abstract language: language describing ideas and qualities
34. concrete language: language describing observable, specific things
35. colloquialism: words characteristic to familiar conversation
36. denotation: specific, exact meaning of a word as defined
37. connotation: The emotional implications that a word may carry
38. polysyndeton: repetition of conjunctions in close succession
39. synecdoche: part is used for a whole or the whole for a part

40. satire: genre of writing used to critique or ridicule through humor or sarcasm
41. syntax: how a sentence is constructed
42. simple sentence: a complete sentence that is neither compound, nor complex. (1 subject, 1 predicate)
43. compound sentence: a sentence that contains 2 independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction
44. complex sentence: an independent clause joined by one or more dependent clauses
45. antecedent: the word to which a pronoun refers
46. parallelism: when the arrangement of parts of a sentence is similarly phrased or constructed
47. loose sentence: when a sentence is grammatically complete before its end
48. periodic sentence: when a sentence is not grammatically complete before its end
49. anaphora: the same expression is repeated at the beginning of 2 or more consecutive lines
50. chiasmus: second half of an expression is balanced against the first, but with the parts reversed