

101 Questions
On
Into the Wild
By Jon Krakauer



Name _____

101 Questions for Into the Wild

Judging a Book by the Cover

1) Use imagery to describe the picture on the front cover in detail:

2) Now read the words after the title. You already know the fate of the protagonist. What affect does this have on you as a reader before you begin the narrative? Why do you think the author chose to do this?

Chapter 1 "The Alaska Interior"

3) Jim Gallien describes a hitchhiker. What does he say he looks like?

4) How did the hitchhiker introduce himself? Why do you think he used a pseudonym?

5) What did Gallien notice about this hitchhiker's preparedness for the Alaskan wilderness initially and then after their drive together?

6) What did Gallien notice about the hitchhiker's feelings about the government?

7) Gallien insisted that hitchhiker take a few of his things. How did that interaction play out? What was the date of this entire incident?

Chapter 2 "The Stampede Trail"

8) This chapter begins with a quote from Jack London. Who is he and what has he written?

9) Describe the bus on page 10 & 11. Where is it located and what does it look like?

10) What did Thompson, Samel, and Swanson find on the door of the bus? Who else was at the bus that day?

11) How long had Chris McCandless been dead? What did they decide to do about the body?

12) What is assumed happened to Chris?

Chapter 3 "Carthage"

13) Who is Wayne Westerberg? Where does he live? What was his relation to Chris (Alex)?

14) What is a "rubber tramp"

15) How did Westerberg describe Chris's work ethic? How else did he characterize him?

16) In pages 19 – 23 we learn more about Chris's past. Describe what his life was like prior to his Alaskan tragedy: What were his parents like? What kind of student was he? What were his exact words before left for the summer?

Chapter 4 "Detrital Wash"

17) What did Bud Walsh discover in Lake Mead National Recreation Area? Be specific.

18) What was ironic about the car after its discovery? Who did the car belong to?

19) McCandless is compared to a “latter-day Henry David Thoreau”. Explain who this person is:

20) How did the author know exactly what Chris was doing if he was travelling alone? Describe his journey so far:

21) We meet Jan Burres and Bob. Describe them:

22) Which of Chris’s acts “really scared” his parents?

23) Describe Chris’s canoeing adventure on the Colorado River:

24) Describe Chris’s state of mind at the end of chapter 4:

Chapter 5 "Bullhead City"

25) Why does Krakauer surmise Chris enjoys staying in Bullhead? What does Chris himself say about life in Bullhead?

26) Describe Chris's experience working at the local McDonald's:

27) Describe the "Slabs". Who does Chris meet up with again? How does he help them?

28) Who fell in love with Chris? Why does he rebuff her advances?

29) What is the only slice of Chris's life that he reveals to Jan? How does she find this information out?

Chapter 6 "Anza-Borrego"

30) Who did Krakauer receive a letter from and why?

31) How did Ron meet Chris?

32) What happened to Ron's family? Why do you suppose Ron took such a liking to Chris?

33) What skill did Ron teach Chris? What did he make using this skill?

34) After Chris left Ron, how did they meet up again?

35) What does Ron offer to do for Chris?

36) What advice does Chris give Ron in his letter to him? How does Ron react?

37) When Ron learned of Chris's death, how did he react?

Chapter 7 "Carthage"

38) How does Wayne characterize Chris?

39) How does Chris feel about his parents?

40) Describe Krakauer's analysis of Chris's sexual appetite:

41) What "frightened" Borah?

42) Describe the postcards Chris sent on April 27, 1992:

Chapter 8 "Alaska"

43) What was the general public's reaction to news of Chris's death?

44) Describe the adventures of the following “dreamy half-cocked greenhorns”:

a) Countercultural Idealist:

b) Vietnam Vet:

c) Gene Rosellini, Mayor of Hippie Cove:

d) John Mallon Waterman:

e) Carl McCunn:

45) What does Chris have in common with the aforementioned individuals?

Chapter 9 “Davis Gulch”

46) What similarities do you notice between Everett Ruess’s letter and the postcards Chris sent to Wayne, Jan & Bob:

47) Describe five similarities between Ruess and McCandless:

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

Chapter 10 "Fairbanks"

48) What is your reaction to the New York Times article on page 98?

49) Initially, no one knew the identity of the body they found in the bus. How did they determine it was Chris?

Chapter 11 "Chesapeake Beach"

50) How did Walt & Billie react to Chris's death?

51) Chris's childhood had both good and bad times. Give a few examples of each:

52) Describe Chris's relationship with Carine:

53) Describe Chris's relationship with the sport of running:

54) What was Chris like in high school?

55) Chris is described as puzzling, complex, and paradoxical. Why?

Chapter 12 "Annandale"

56) Where did Chris go after he graduated from high school?

57) What was Chris like at college?

58) Why did Chris's relationship with his parents deteriorate?

59) What trip did Chris take in the spring of 1989?

60) How would you characterize Chris's relationship with his parents as time passed?

61) Describe what happened to Billie on the night of July 1992:

Chapter 13 "Virginia Beach"

62) Why does Carine wish Chris had taken Buck with him?

63) How does Carine feel 10 months after Chris's death?

64) How did she react when she first heard the news?

Chapters 14 & 15 "The Stikine Ice Cap"

65) What connections does the author see in himself and McCandless?

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

Chapter 16 "The Alaska Interior"

66) How did Chris get to Alaska?

67) What was Stuckey's impression of McCandless?

68) What was ironic about the Geophysical Institute?

69) Where did Gallien drop McCandless off?

70) How did Chris get across the Teklanika River?

71) What is a Rubicon? Why is this Chris's Rubicon?

72) React to Chris's declaration of independence:

73) What difficulties did Chris initially encounter?

74) What did Chris tell Gallien his plan was? How did his plans change?

75) What was ironic about the "wilderness" surrounding the bus?

76) How did Chris feel about killing the moose?

77) Why does Krakauer speculate that Chris wanted to leave Alaska?

78) React to Chris's writing in the middle of page 169:

79) What was Chris's first pivotal setback?

80) What did he decide to do after this first setback?

Chapter 17 "The Stampede Trail"

81) Why did the author return the site of Chris's death?

82) What would've helped Chris escape that he was unaware of?

83) What is the author glad for that he had previously been annoyed by the thought of?

84) What did many letters say was the one identifying mark of Chris's incompetence? What did Krakauer discover to counteract this?

85) What feeling do you get as the author scans the empty bus?

86) What was McCandless's prime mistake in trying to live off the land?

87) Who is John Muir?

88) What did Liske notice about Chris's journal?

89) The three men note how hard it is to do what?

Chapter 18 "The Stampede Trail"

90) After being thwarted by the river, what did Chris do?

91) What did he write in bold print in the margin of his copy of Dr. Zhivago?

92) What is one theory of Chris's death? Why is this theory flawed?

93) What is the second theory behind Chris's death? What does Chris himself blame?

94) Why does Krakauer believe the above theory is less plausible?

95) What is Krakauer's final theory about Chris's death?

96) React to the entry on page 195:

97) What could've saved Chris if he had had a map?

98) Why does Forsberg suspect Chris had trashed the cabins? Why does Krakauer rule him out?

99) React to Chris's note on the top of page 198:

100) What do some suggest Chris should've done to save himself?

101) How does the author describe Chris in his final moments?

EPILOGUE

102) How do Walt & Billie react when visiting the bus where Chris died?

103) What is your reaction to the end of the narrative?