*Into the Wild* Study Guide Questions Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Author’s Note & Chapters 1 – 3

Directions: Be able to answer each question with the appropriate short response. You will be permitted to use your own handwritten notes on quizzes.

**Author's Note**

1. What event happened in April 1992 that prompted the writing of *Into the Wild*?

2. Where did Chris McCandless grow up?

3. Where had Chris McCandless attended school and graduated with honors?

4. What strange actions did Chris take right after graduating from college?

5. Why was the author, Jon Krakauer, interested in writing Chris's story?

6. What did Krakauer include in the book besides events he uncovered from the life of Chris McCandless?

7. What do some people think about Chris McCandless?

8. What does Krakauer think might have made the difference in Chris's survival?

9. How does Krakauer classify Chris as opposed to the way most people saw him?

10. What is the tone of Krakauer's book?

11. What appears to be Krakauer's main motive in writing *Into the Wild*?

12. Near what famous landmark did Chris McCandless die?

**Chapter 1, The Alaska Interior**

1. What evidence at the beginning of the chapter suggests that Chris/Alex might have had a premonition about his death?

2. In what ways is Chris/Alex prepared for his Alaskan adventure? What evidence is there that he wasn’t prepared?

3. When Jim Gallien picks up Chris/Alex, what goes through the back of his mind?

4. What does Chris/Alex give Jim Gallien? What does Jim Gallien give Chris/Alex? What does the exchange show about each man?

5. After dropping Chris/Alex off, why does Gallien decide NOT to notify the authorities?

**Chapter 2, The Stampede Trail**

1. According to his graffiti, what author did Alex think was “King”? How does he make the Alaskan wilderness sound in the excerpt from *White Fang*?

2. How did there happen to be an abandoned bus halfway up the trail?

3. Why does Krakauer include a narrative about moose hunters driving off-road trucks to get to the site Chris eventually found?

4. What happens when the moose hunters get to the bus where they plan to camp out?

5. What is Krakauer's message by using the details of the moose hunter's trip to the bus?

6. What does Butch Killian want to do when he arrives on the scene?

7. What is Krakauer's thesis about Chris?

8. What does the message that Chris taped to the door of the bus reveal about him?

9. What problem did Killian have in contacting the authorities?

10. How long did Chris survive in that hostile environment?

11. What did the autopsy reveal as the cause of Chris’ death?

**Chapter 3, Carthage**

1. What Tolstoy book is found inside the bus?

2. Where did Chris meet Wayne Westerberg?

3. Where did Krakauer meet Westerberg?

4. What did Westerberg give the young man who called himself Alex?

5. Where did Chris live while he was in Carthage?

6. Who had left Chris a $40,000 inheritance for his school?

7. What did Chris do with the $24,000 he had left over from his inheritance?

8. What had his mother and father offered to do after he graduated from Emory?

9. What is Chris's plan that he does not tell his family?

10. How had Chris already been separating himself from his family?

11. What do Walt and Billie McCandless discover when they drive to Chris's apartment in Atlanta?

12. Why did Krakauer include so much about the McCandless family in Chapter Three?

**Written Response** - You will be given time in class to complete this assignment.

After reading Chapters 1 – 3, use three adjectives to describe your impressions of Chris McCandless (Alex). Explain and support each adjective with a specific quote from the novel.