

Names:

Hey There, Analytical Thinker

So much of our reading of this novel has been focusing on Reader Response—how you are personally reacting and connecting to Chris McCandless. However, let's rev our investigative minds and start exploring what is *really* revealed in this novel.

What does this novel reveal about life, human nature, society or the role of the individual?

As a group, select one of the below lenses to assume when evaluating the novel. Think back to our group presentations on The Crucible to determine which lens best suits your group. After choosing ONE lens, answer the questions provided.

PLEASE ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ON A SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER. One per group.

Psychological

1. Many psychologists believe that people emulate or embody the same traits as their parents.
 - a. In what ways are Chris and Walt similar? In what ways are they different?

 - b. How is Chris impacted throughout the novel because of the traits he and his father share?

2. Psychologists often believe that the more you understand about a person's past the more you understand about his/her current personality.
 - a. How is Chris's current personality affected by his past? In what way?

 - b. What does this reveal about human nature?

3. Psychologists identify patients who suffer from repression, a disorder where a person defends himself/herself by ignoring the problems.
 - a. Based on your reading of 10-13, how might this novel be an example of Chris repressing a problem from his childhood?

 - b. Specifically, what problem is he repressing?

 - c. Does he know he is repressing it or is this in his subconscious (unknown)?

 - d. How does this problem from his past affect who he is as a person?

4. Psychologists identify patients who suffer from projection, a disorder where a person cannot handle a weakness in him/her and therefore projects the weakness onto someone else.
 - a. As evidenced from your reading, what weakness does Chris possess that he puts on/projects onto others? Who does he project it onto?

 - b. What is the root of this weakness (where does it come from)?

Gender

1. Examine the relationship that exists between Chris and Walt McCandless.
 - a. What are five adjectives you would use to characterize this relationship?

- b. What is Krakauer trying to point out about all men through his depiction of Chris and Walt's relationship?

- 2. What does Krakauer reveal about the habits, personalities and priorities of men in these chapters?

- 3. Krakauer didn't have to give the details about Walt McCandless' first marriage for the story to make sense. Yet, he does.
 - a. How does this description affect our perception of Walt McCandless?

 - b. What does Krakauer convey about men in general by including these details?

- 4. In these chapters we learn a lot about Chris's past and are given some explanation about why he does what he does. We can conclude that much of what Chris does throughout the book is a direct result of his relationship with his father. We also see that his sister, Carine, isn't affected the same way.
 - a. Why is it significant Carine isn't affected but Chris is? What does that reveal about how boys are affected by their upbringing?

 - b. What is Krakauer trying to point out about the development of boys and girls?

- 5. We see that the major source of conflict in these chapters is between Chris and Walt.
 - a. Why is it significant that the major conflict in these chapters is found between two men?

 - b. What does Krakauer say about the relationships between men (not father and son)?

Assertion-Hint.....this will be the main source of evaluation

Now, as a group, compile your thoughts and answers into answering the essential question of the day (posted below). Here is what you should consider: As of right now, none of us are planning on hitch-hiking to Alaska and trying to live off the land. Therefore, what can we learn about ourselves, our lives, our futures through this novel? What does this reveal about the way humans act and react?

Hint: An assertion is essentially a thesis. Make sure you are including an infinitive phrase like "revealing," "indicating," "exposing," "affirming," etc.

What does this novel reveal about life, human nature, society or the role of the individual?
