

## DISCUSSION GROUPS: INTO THE WILD

### 12B Module 2

As you read, be sure to write down questions as they come to you. One of these questions will become your level 3 question for each discussion session.

**Each session, one person will be assigned to the following roles. The roles will rotate each session.**

- **LEADER:** this person is responsible for moving the conversation from question to question once the conversation has lulled.
- **PROCTOR:** this person is responsible for making sure everyone participates. If someone is not pulling their weight, the proctor will encourage that person to speak by asking direct questions
- **SCRIBE:** this person is responsible for taking notes digitally as others speak. They will both record responses (in short) as well as who made them. This will be turned in to your LF after every discussion session.
- **TIME KEEPER:** this person is responsible for making sure that no part of the discussion period goes to long. Most importantly, the time keeper will let the rest of the group know when 5 minutes are left, so the group can move to reflection.

**Each discussion session will last 25 minutes. The last 5 minutes should be saved for self-reflection.**

1. Every member of your book club will write down one level-3 (a harder analysis) question to ask the group. You do NOT need to have an answer (or even know the answer). It may be something you are confused or curious about. **You will turn in this question. So save it!**
2. As a group, you will share your questions and respond/discuss. One person will lead discussions, one will help make sure everyone participates, and one will record answers. Everyone talks.
  - a. This discussion of your level 3 questions should take approximately 10 minutes.
3. After you discuss your chosen questions, your leader will choose some pre-made discussion questions from those prepared for the session. Pick some that interest the group, or that you are struggling with.
  - a. This discussion of the pre-made discussion questions should take approximately 10 minutes. You do not have to answer all of the questions.
4. The time-keeper will let the group know when there is 5 minutes remaining. At this point, the group will silently and INDIVIDUALLY write a reflection on how conversation enhanced their comprehension of the text. The reflection should be a minimum of 5 sentences. At the bottom of your reflection, record what the level 3 question you contributed was.

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### WHEN ON THE WEBSITE:

**Occasionally**, your LF may ask you to have your discussion online instead. To do so, you will visit your book's page on [lhsenglish.com](http://lhsenglish.com) → 12B module 2 → your book's blog page

Listed on the site will be discussion questions for the section that you are responding to.

- Each learner in the group will be required to respond to a specific discussion question
  - Minimum for initial response = 150 words
- Each learner in the group will be required to respond to another learner's response, in-depth, of their choice
  - Minimum for response to a response = 100 words
  - The point of the response to a response is to:
    - Elaborate and provide further evidence
    - Question / challenge / ask for clarification
    - Thoughtfully respond
    - Expand previous responses to new understandings

**Your discussion sessions will occur after you finish reading each section, as outlined below:**

SECTION	PAGES (CHPT'S)	FIRST LINE	LAST LINE
Section 1	Author's Note + Chpts 1-2	"In April 1992"	"or why he was there"
Section 2	Chpt 3	"I wanted movement"	"master of his own destiny"
Section 3	Chpt 4-7	"The desert is the environment"	"it was great knowing you. Alexander."
Section 4	Chpt 8-9	"It may, after all, be the bad habit"	"Everett Ruess and Chris McCandless"
Section 5	Chpt 10-11	"dying in the wild, a hiker recorded the terror"	"anger, misunderstanding, and sorrow."
Section 6	Chpt 12-13	"Rather than love"	"I just don't understand it at all."
Section 7	Chpt 14-15	"I grew up exuberant in body"	"different thing from wanting to die."
Section 8	Chpt 16-18	"I wished to acquire the simplicity"	"serene as a monk to God"
Section 9	Epilogue	"Still, the last sad memory hovers round"	"and then it's gone"

### **SECTION ONE QUESTION OPTIONS**

#### **Reading Chapters 1-2: The Beginning and the End**

1. Note the epigraphs that begin each of these chapters. One is by a friend of Chris McCandless and the other is by McCandless himself, followed by a quotation from *White Fang*, by Jack London. In your notebook, make note of all the maps that begin the text.
2. What is your assessment of Chris McCandless so far? Keep notes as you read, ask questions of the text, and write down your reactions.

### **SECTION TWO QUESTION OPTIONS**

Jot down your thoughts on the following questions:

1. What was Westerberg like? What kind of character did he have?
2. What was McCandless like? What kind of character did he have? Would you have liked to know him?
3. Why did McCandless start calling himself Alex? Did this make a difference in how he related to people?

### **SECTION THREE QUESTION OPTIONS**

Study the map that begins Chapter 4 and refer to it as you follow McCandless's journey. Jot down answers to the following as you read these chapters:

1. In your notebook, list the people McCandless met along the way.
2. What was it about McCandless's personality that made an impression on people?
3. Note McCandless's journal. Why do you think he avoided using the first person when he talked about himself? Why doesn't he use the pronoun "I"?
4. What is the purpose of Chapter 4?
5. Characterize Ronald Franz. What kind of a human being was he? Did he have your sympathy? Why or why not?
6. What more did you learn about McCandless's relationship with his father? Do you think his anger is justified? Why or why not?

### **SECTION FOUR QUESTION OPTIONS**

1. What is the function of these chapters? What is their relationship to the rest of the text?
2. Chapter 8 opens with some reactions from people to the article about McCandless that Krakauer published in *Outside Magazine*. What do most people think? Why did Krakauer put this material here in the middle of the book?
3. Why did Krakauer interrupt the McCandless story with Chapters 8 and 9?
4. Were you surprised that McCandless left trails so that the authorities could find out who he was?
5. What's in a name? Does it matter that we have the name we were given by our parents? How do names matter? Does your name fit you? If not, what name would you choose? Why?

### **SECTION FIVE QUESTION OPTIONS**

These three key chapters give background information that will help you piece together the mystery of McCandless. Chapter 11 fills in his personal past; Chapter 12 fills in his family past; and Chapter 13 chronicles McCandless's family's grief. Jot down the surprises (if any) that you encountered as you read.

1. What was McCandless like as a child and as a teen? What was he like as an adult? Were there indications throughout his life as to the kind of person he would become?
2. Do you think you are essentially the same person you were as a child?
  3. How have you changed?

### **SECTION SIX QUESTION OPTIONS**

1. Why does Krakauer talk about himself in these two chapters?
2. Do you think it was a good idea for Krakauer to interject himself into the story?
3. What is your reaction to his description of his own climbing experience?
4. How is Krakauer's life related to McCandless's?
5. John Menlove Edwards said that climbing is a "psycho-neurotic tendency." Do you think that is so? Always?
6. Do you think that Edwards defines McCandless? How is he psycho-neurotic?

### **SECTION SEVEN QUESTION OPTIONS**

1. After a long detour, Krakauer brings us back to the scene of McCandless's death. What does Krakauer discuss in these chapters that he did not discuss in the previous chapters? Why did he delay presenting this information?
2. Krakauer provides a lot of quotations from McCandless's journal in these chapters. What is McCandless talking about? Why did Krakauer include these selections?
3. Krakauer quotes one of McCandless's friends, who said that McCandless "was born into the wrong century. He was looking for more adventure and freedom than today's society gives people" (174). Do you think this is true?

### **SECTION EIGHT QUESTION OPTIONS**

1. What was your initial sense of McCandless's mental condition compared to what you think now? Have you changed your mind?
2. What was your reaction to his parents as they visited the bus?