

Into the Wild Discussion Questions:

Name:

Answer all questions on this of sheet – share your answers with me when you are done.

1. Why did McCandless reject his parents' lifestyle?
2. Would you do the same thing if you were in his place, or do you think it would be important to discuss your decision with your family first, even if you were certain that they would try to dissuade you.
3. Why do you think McCandless chose to discard his identity and past life without a backward look?
4. The author claims that Into the Wild is very much a story about a son's relationship with his father. What conclusions did you make regarding McCandless's response to his family?
5. Do you think McCandless was mentally ill?
6. Ron Franz put everything in storage, bought a GMC Duravan and set up camp on Bajada after he received McCandless's letter. Why do you think McCandless has such an impact on Franz?
7. Do you believe McCandless's decision to leave his family without a word was justified? Why or why not?
8. What significance did you attach to Chris's last entry into his journal quoting Dr. Zhivago? "Happiness is only real when shared"?
9. Why do you think that McCandless had a tendency to push himself to the edge, which eventually would lead him to his death?
10. Christopher McCandless sought a life removed from formal society. Why did he desire such freedom, and did it ultimately kill him?