

CORE EXTENDED AND CORE LITERATURE ADVOCACY FORM
6-12

Title of Book: Into the Wild

Author: Jon Krakauer

Publisher: Anchor Books, Doubleday

Year of Publication: 1996

Major Themes: The journey and the spirit of American adventure, exploration of self and testing human limits, Transcendentalism, existence in contemporary society

Suggested Grade Level: Eleventh

Your Name: Lisa Ludden, ~~Katie Wanket~~, Robin Spring

Check One: Teacher Parent Administrator Student

Brief Summary of Book:

Jon Krakauer's Into the Wild documents the life of Alexander McCandless, a young man who, after college, sheds his material possessions in effort to connect to the land and himself. The book explores his journey across the United States, concluding with his attempt to survive in the Alaskan Wilderness. An American nomad of sorts, McCandless moving from place to place, living off what he can gather as he tests the limits of man, physically and emotionally.

Reasons Why I Think This Book Should be Considered:

Into the Wild highlights a classic aspect of American Literature: the Frontier. At the junior level, the curriculum is centered on American Literature. This text is an accessible, yet well-written and engaging text that directly connects with our existing curriculum, while at the same time allows for exploration of more non-fiction work into the core. Krakauer is a well respected writer of non-fiction, well deserving of a place in the Mount Diablo Unified School District's canon.

See attached California Department of Education, Language Arts Content Standards: Grade Eleven and Twelve.

Themes or Ideas You Recognized in This Book:

This text presents an accessible understanding into the following themes:

Man versus Man

Man versus Nature

Existence in contemporary society
Questioning of values
Spirit of American adventure
Transcendentalist movement in Literature (connections to Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson) and the philosophy behind it.
Travel
The Journey (physical and emotional)

Genre, Setting and Time Period:

Genre: Non-fiction
Setting: The United States
Time Period: Late 1980's through the mid-1990's.

Connections to Other Curriculum:

Strong connections can be made to American History, in terms the exploration and development of the Western Frontier. Extensions in terms of Geography, Topography (Environmental Science) and Psychology can be easily developed and explored.

Areas of Caution and Suggestions for Handling:

Jon Krakauer presents the aspects of the story in a way that neither judges nor glorifies McCandless' actions. It should be explored in a similar manner in the classroom, questioning and exploring but not condoning and not condemning. A cautionary tale more than a guide to live by, McCandless embarks on a dangerous journey, while questioning his values and Americans values as well: all this should not be taken lightly.

Recommend

Do not recommend

Name: Katie Wanket

Signature: Katie Wanket

Name: Robin Spring

Signature: Robin Spring

Name: Lisa Ludden

Signature: Lisa Ludden

CORE AND EXTENDED CORE LITERATURE ADVOCACY FORM
6-12

Title of Book Into the Wild
Author Jon Krakauer
Publisher Doubleday
Year of Publication 1995
Major Theme(s) Authentic, idealistic living
Suggested Grade Level 10-12
Your Name Elissa Anderson
Check One:

Teacher Parent Administrator Student

Brief Summary of Book:

Into the Wild retraces the journey of Chris McCandless' journey into the Alaskan wilderness. John Krakauer tells his story through interviews with people that Chris encountered on his journey. Beginning the story with Chris's demise in the Alaskan wilderness Krakauer tells how Chris got there and the impact he had on the lives of the people he encountered.

Reasons why I think this book should be considered:

I could really connect to the main themes and the overall sense of adventure throughout the novel. After discussing the book with others who had read it, they agreed that it was an interesting plot that drew you in. Chris has the kind of freedom in his life and adventures that many teens dream of and it's easy for teens to connect to his character.

(over)

Themes or ideas you recognized in this book:

- idealistic living
- civilization vs. wilderness
- authentic living
- honest living

Genre and setting, time period:

Nonfiction, adventure in the late 1980's to early 1990's

Connections that can be made to other curricular areas:

1. English classes can explore his journalistic style and the format he uses to organize the story
2. It can also be connected to earth science classes.

Areas of caution and suggestions for handling:

none

Recommend



Do not recommend



CORE AND EXTENDED LITERATURE SELECTION RUBRIC

TITLE Into the Wild
 AUTHOR Jon Krakauer
 GENRE Non Fiction
 SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL 10th and older

CATEGORY	DON'T KNOW	1/WEAK	2/AVERAGE	3/STRONG	4/EXCEPTIONAL
1. Represents universal themes					✓
2. Has rich powerful language				✓	
3. Portrays cultures authentically					✓
4. Portrays cultures with sensitivity					✓
5. Has multiple layers of meaning					✓
6. Has been considered a classic or has potential for permanency			✓		
7. Is a strong example of a specific genre					✓
8. Content is compelling and encourages discussion of intellectual, social, and/or ethical values					✓
9. Is relevant to a content-area curriculum, cross-curricular integration, and/or concept development					✓
10. Is favorably cited or reviewed in recognized professional sources, such as educational or academic journals, literary					✓

For teachers and administrators: Which English/language arts standards are addressed by this book?

CORE AND EXTENDED CORE LITERATURE ADVOCACY FORM

6-12

Title of Book Into the Wild
Author Joh Krakauer
Publisher Double day
Year of Publication 1995
Major Theme(s) Youthful idealism, Immorality of wealth
Suggested Grade Level Junior/Senior
Your Name Molly Anderson
Check One:

Teacher Parent Administrator Student

Brief Summary of Book:

Chris Mclandless, recent college grad from a well to do family renews his wealth and privileged lifestyle to strike out on his own and live authentically.

Chris' travels across the country are documented by Krakauer who has much experience as an adventurer himself. The author's own experiences make him the ideal narrator of this tale that ends in tragedy due to inexperience and a fatal misstep that led to Chris' poisoning and death.

Reasons why I think this book should be considered:

This is an incredibly poignant, true story with many excellent, relevant themes. It is a gripping tale of man vs. nature and the ultimate downfall of an idealistic young man. I believe teens will be able to identify with the main character on many levels.

(over)

Themes or ideas you recognized in this book:

- youthful idealism
- civilization vs. environment
- wealth is immoral
- youth vs. establishment
- authentic life
- man vs. Nature

Genre and setting, time period:

Non-fiction, adventure set in early 1990s.

Connections that can be made to other curricular areas:

- (1) Within the English program strong connections can be made to the writing of Thoreau and Tolstoy.
- (2) Environmental programs, science

Areas of caution and suggestions for handling:

None

Recommend



Do not recommend



CORE AND EXTENDED LITERATURE SELECTION RUBRIC

TITLE Into the Wild
 AUTHOR Jon Krakauer
 GENRE Non Fiction
 SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL Junior +

CATEGORY	DON'T KNOW	1/WEAK	2/AVERAGE	3/STRONG	4/EXCEPTIONAL
1. Represents universal themes				✓	✓
2. Has rich powerful language				✓	✓
3. Portrays cultures authentically					✓
4. Portrays cultures with sensitivity					✓
5. Has multiple layers of meaning				✓	✓
6. Has been considered a classic or has potential for permanency				✓	✓
7. Is a strong example of a specific genre					✓
8. Content is compelling and encourages discussion of intellectual, social, and/or ethical values					✓
9. Is relevant to a content-area curriculum, cross-curricular integration, and/or concept development					✓
10. Is favorably cited or reviewed in recognized professional sources, such as educational or academic journals, literary					✓

For teachers and administrators: Which English/language arts standards are addressed by this book?

CORE AND EXTENDED CORE LITERATURE ADVOCACY FORM

6-12

Title of Book Into the Wild
Author Jon Krakauer
Publisher Anchor Books a division of Random House
Year of Publication 1994
Major Theme(s) Soul searching / modern day transcendentalism, forgiveness, freedom
Suggested Grade Level 11
Your Name Jon Campopiano
Check One:

Teacher Parent Administrator Student

Brief Summary of Book:

This is a true story about a young man, Christopher McCandless who shunned his wealthy upbringing. Christopher also had a strong sense of adventure and a need to acted on this. Immediately after graduation, with honors, from Emory University in the summer of 1990, McCandless dropped out of sight. He changed his name, gave the entire balance of a twenty-four-thousand-dollar savings account to charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet. He then invented a new life for himself, taking up residence at the ragged margin of our society, wander across North America in search of raw, transcendent experience. His family had no idea where he was or what had become of him until his remains turned up in Alaska

Reasons why I think this book should be considered:

This is a tragic and compelling true story. It shows the struggles of youth with regards to their need to experience raw nature and the need to fit into society. It also speaks to ones values concerning relationships. This book was very well written and thought provoking. All of these concepts will engage teenagers and offer a good class discussion.

(over)

Themes or ideas you recognized in this book:

- Modern day transcendentalism
- Social experimentation
- Understanding one's identity
- seeking ultimate freedom and purity
- Forgiveness vs Resentment

Genre and setting, time period:

Non-fiction
20th century

Connections that can be made to other curricular areas:


Many areas that connections can be made. Our science department has already developed lesson plans that "thread" with the text. Our social studies department is working on historical comparisons and primary documents that can be used in connection with the English department.

Areas of caution and suggestions for handling:

None

Recommend

Do not recommend


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CORE AND EXTENDED LITERATURE SELECTION RUBRIC

TITLE Jon Krakauer - Into the Wild

AUTHOR _____

GENRE Non-fiction

SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL 11

CATEGORY	DON'T KNOW	1/WEAK	2/AVERAGE	3/STRONG	4/EXCEPTIONAL
1. Represents universal themes				X	
2. Has rich powerful language				X	
3. Portrays cultures authentically				X	
4. Portrays cultures with sensitivity				X	
5. Has multiple layers of meaning					X
6. Has been considered a classic or has potential for permanency			X		
7. Is a strong example of a specific genre				X	
8. Content is compelling and encourages discussion of intellectual, social, and/or ethical values				X	
9. Is relevant to a content-area curriculum, cross-curricular integration, and/or concept development				X	
10. Is favorably cited or reviewed in recognized professional sources, such as educational or academic journals, literary				X	

For teachers and administrators: Which English/language arts standards are addressed by this book?



CORE AND EXTENDED CORE LITERATURE ADVOCACY FORM
6-12

Title of Book Into the Wild
Author Jon Krakauer
Publisher _____
Year of Publication _____
Major Theme(s) _____
Suggested Grade Level Junior, 11th grade
Your Name Spencer Coilest
Check One:

Teacher _____ Parent _____ Administrator _____ Student

Brief Summary of Book:

This book is about the life of a boy named Alex who trashed his life with wealthy parents, great schooling, and just a life filled with opportunity. He goes on various adventures in the outdoors with no money and just lives off the land. Eventually he gets a job on a farm to get money to go to Alaska so he can try and survive its wilderness. He goes to Alaska and survives the allotted time he decided to stay until he ate berries that messed up his digestive system. He starved to death in a wilderness hunting/survival shelter.

Reasons why I think this book should be considered:

This book is very good and should be considered because it provides a lot of adventure to the reader and it really shows that the typical path everyone seems to take in life is not the only path and doesn't fit with a lot of people. The book also is a great example of how determination ~~can~~ is a very useful and important tool in life ~~and~~ that will get you far in whatever ~~your~~ path you follow.

Themes or ideas you recognized in this book: *determination gets you far, man vs. nature a bit,*

Genre and setting, time period:
Setting
All over the United States
an a little in Mexico.
Genre
Biography
Time Period
Early 90's

Connections that can be made to other curricular areas: *Psychology*

Areas of caution and suggestions for handling: *none*

Recommend Do not recommend

CORE AND EXTENDED LITERATURE SELECTION RUBRIC

TITLE Into the Wild
 AUTHOR Jon Krakauer
 GENRE Biography
 SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL 11

CATEGORY	DON'T KNOW	1/WEAK	2/AVERAGE	3/STRONG	4/EXCEPTIONAL
1. Represents universal themes			✓		
2. Has rich powerful language				✓	
3. Portrays cultures authentically			✓		
4. Portrays cultures with sensitivity				✓	
5. Has multiple layers of meaning				✓	
6. Has been considered a classic or has potential for permanency			✓		
7. Is a strong example of a specific genre					✓
8. Content is compelling and encourages discussion of intellectual, social, and/or ethical values				✓	
9. Is relevant to a content-area curriculum, cross-curricular integration, and/or concept development				✓	
10. Is favorably cited or reviewed in recognized professional sources, such as educational or academic journals, literary				✓	

For teachers and administrators: Which English/language arts standards are addressed by this book?