*Into the Wild* by John Krakauer

Open Notes Quiz – Chapters 4-5

**1. In October of 1990, National Park Ranger, Bud Walsh discovered Chris’ beloved Datsun B-210. Why had Chris left it there?**  
**a)** It ran out of gas  
**b)** The brakes stopped working  
**c)** It was caught in a flood and wouldn’t start  
**d)** Chris was ready to be a leather tramp.

**2. What happened to his car in the year that followed?**

**a)** Walt and Billie had it returned to Virginia  
**b)** It was used as an undercover vehicle.  
**c)** It was used as a stunt car.  
**d)** No one claimed it, so after a year it was junked.

**3. What human contact does Chris have as he hikes west from Lake Mead?**  
**a)** A few vagabonds and some law officers.  
**b)** Men working on an oil drilling rig.  
**c)** People in a small village.  
**d)** A troop of Boy Scouts.

**4. Why did Chris steal a bicycle in Northern California?**  
**a)** The man he worked for didn’t pay him.  
**b)** He needed a quick getaway but planned to return it quickly.  
**c)** He had always wanted a bike like that.  
**d)** He was delirious at the time and did not know what he was doing.

**5. Still calling himself Alex, he meets two drifters who befriend him. Who are they?**  
**a)** Jan Burres and her father Ron.  
**b)** Jan Burres and her boyfriend Bob.  
**c)** Jan Burres and her brother Tom.  
**d)** Jan Burres and her husband Eddie.

**6. Why does Chris adopt the name Alex Burres?**  
**a)** He took it when people thought he was Jan's son.  
**b)** He realized he needed a second name.  
**c)** He becomes a surrogate son for Jan Burres.  
**d)** He liked the initials AB.

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**7. What news seriously alarms Jan Burres?**  
**a)** That Alex had burned the last of his money when he abandoned his car.  
**b)** That Alex never intends to see any of his family again. **c)** That Alex might be a psychopath.  
**d)** That Alex was wanted by the Nevada police.

**8. How do Walt and Billie McCandless learn where their son might be?**  
**a)** They see him on a newscast on TV.  
**b)** One of Chris's high school friends gets a postcard from Chris.  
**c)** They receive a ticket issued to their son for hitchhiking near Eureka, California.  
**d)** Jan Burres calls them.

**9. What steps do Walt and Billie take to find Chris?**  
**a)** They hire a private investigator.  
**b)** They take a trip to Eureka, California.  
**c)** They go on TV begging Chris to come home.  
**d)** They contact the California state police to arrest him until they can get there.

**10. What does Chris do after Westerberg is jailed?**  
**a)** He stays with Westerberg's family until he gets out.  
**b)** He hitchhikes south to Mexico.  
**c)** He keeps himself hidden because the police might be looking for him.  
**d)** He hitchhikes to Needles, California, then walks through the desert to Topock, Arizona.

**11. Where does Chris's canoe trip eventually take him after going as far as he can down the Colorado River?**  
**a)** Some duck hunters agree to drive him to the Gulf of California.  
**b)** He ends up staying with a Mexican family for six weeks.  
**c)** He retraces his way back upstream.  
**d)** He heads south and ends up in Acapulco.

**12. At what point does Chris stop writing in his journal?**  
**a)** When it has no more blank pages.  
**b)** When he decides no one will ever read it.  
**c)** When it is soaked through by a rainstorm. **d)** When his camera is ruined from being buried outside of Vegas.

**13. Why do the employees at McDonald's object to Chris?**  
**a)** His being a loner.  
**b)** His bad attitude.  
**c)** His long hair.  
**d)** His poor hygiene.

**14. How does Chris describe Charlie, the man who let him stay in a vacant mobile home?**  
**a)** As a lunatic.  
**b)** As uneducated.  
**c)** As a father figure.  
**d)** As a thief.

**15. What item of clothing does Chris seem to detest?**  
**a)** Socks.  
**b)** Shoes.  
**c)** Neckties.  
**d)** Uniforms.

**16. What is The Slabs?**  
**a)** An old U.S. Calvary outpost  
**b)** A portion of an Indian reservation that was no longer occupied by tribe members   
**c)** A rocky area in the Arizona desert  
**d)** An abandoned military base where drifters come during the winter

**17. What work did Chris (Alex) do while he stayed with Jan at The Slabs?**  
**a)** Acting as a security guard  
**b)** Selling books in her flea market stall  
**c)** Fixing broken machinery  
**d)** Grilling food

**18. What comment does Krakauer make about Chris's admiration for Jack London.**  
**a)** That London lectured against doing exactly what Chris was doing.  
**b)** That Chris did not recognize London's lifestyle was different from the people he wrote about.  
**c)** That London had never actually been in Alaska.  
**d)** That London's books had all been proven to be false.

**19. What problem did Chris face while living in The Slabs?**  
**a)** Tracy, a seventeen-year-old girl developed a huge crush on him.  
**b)** He got into an argument with Jan Burres.  
**c)** He could produce no identification when the border patrol came to the camp.  
**d)** The other drifters believed he was an undercover cop.

**20.** **Who said,** “I thought he’d be fine in the end. He was smart. He figured out how to paddle a canoe down to Mexico, how to hop freight trains, how to score a bed at inner-city missions. He figured all of that out on his own, and I felt sure he’d figure out Alaska, too.”

Bonus Questions: (1/2 point each)

1. Who is Sunni?

2. How much money did Chris burn?

3. Which NFL team did Chris root for?

4. Who is Peter Kalitka?

**20. Alex camps near Oh-My-God Hot Springs. What is located there?**  
**a)** A natural waterfall   
**b)** A tourist inn and spa  
**c)** A hippie commune   
**d)** A family campground

**21. Who does Chris meet on a trip into Salton City to get some supplies?**  
**a)** an eighty-year-old man  
**b)** An overly friendly waitress  
**c)** Westerberg, who is looking for work  
**d)** Crazy Ernie

**22. When Franz offers to give Chris a ride to his campsite, what is it he doesn't know?**  
**a)** That he can’t reach Chris’ camp site by car.  
**b)** About the Oh-My-God Hot Springs.  
**c)** If his truck will make the trip and back.  
**d)** Whether Chris is dangerous or not.

**23. What does Chris do on his frequent visits to Franz's apartment in Salton City?**  
**a)** Read Franz's books.  
**b)** Work out in Franz's garage.  
**c)** Clean house for Franz and play with his dog.  
**d)** His laundry and learn leathercraft.

**24. What symbol is ironic on the belt Chris designs?**  
**a)** A raised fist.  
**b)** A tombstone marked R.I.P.  
**c)** A serpent head baring its fangs.  
**d)** Chris's initials surrounded by a skull and crossbones.

**25. What effect had Chris had on Ronald Franz?**  
**a)** He became an alcoholic.  
**b)** He sold his possessions and lived in a mobile camper.  
**c)** He started taking in every drifter he saw.  
**d)** He started going back to church.

**26. What food is Chris (Alex) extremely fond of?**  
**a)** Grilled cheese.  
**b)** Rice.  
**c)** Hotdogs.  
**d)** Broccoli.

**27. Alex confides to Gail Borah that he is close to one member of his family. Who is that?**  
**a)** His sister, Carine  
**b)** His mom, Billie  
**c)** His father, Walt  
**d)** His grandmother

**28. What does Gail believe about Chris's past life?**  
**a)** That he was extremely immature and was only being rebellious.  
**b)** That he had imagined all his problems with his family.  
**c)** That his real problem is something that happened between him and his father.  
**d)** That he was terribly deprived and abused.

**29. When Chris corresponded with his sister, Carine, what did he confide to her?**  
**a)** That he would see her by Christmas time.  
**b)** That he planned to lull his parents into a false sense of security then cut them out of his life abruptly and decisively.  
**c)** That he would surprise them all soon and come home.  
**d)** That she was the only one he loved.

**30. In Chris's relationships with people, what is the most striking contradiction?**  
**a)** His love for his family but his inability to show it.  
**b)** His coldness toward his parents and his warmth with people he meets in his travels.  
**c)** His hurtfulness toward his family and his refusal to help anyone.  
**d)** His lack of interest in his family and his distrust of the people he meets.

**31. What is ironic about Krakauer's descriptions of Walt McCandless and that of his rebellious son, Chris?**  
**a)** Walt has always been kind and generous but Chris has always been aloof.  
**b)** Chris is a carbon copy of his father when he was that age.  
**c)** Chris and Walt McCandless are very similar, both stubborn and temperamental individuals.  
**d)** Walt and Chris believe in the same socialistic things.

**32. What surprising thing about Chris does Westerberg remember about him?**  
**a)** That he knew what he was doing was unfair to his parents.  
**b)** That he would eventually end up in a monastery in Tibet.  
**c)** That he had expressed a desire to marry and have a family some day.  
**d)** That he wanted to play the piano professionally.

**33. In what area do people who knew him agree that he was inexperienced?**  
**a)** Cooking for himself.  
**b)** Living off the land.  
**c)** Managing money.  
**d)** Having a relationship with a girl.

**34. According to Krakauer, how were Chris's ideals defined in his own mind?**  
**a)** They were influenced by the works of Ralph Waldo Emerson, an American transcendentalist.  
**b)** He valued chastity and moral purity as defined by Tolstoy and Thoreau.  
**c)** He followed the teachings of Plato, Aristotle, and Socrates.   
**d)** His ideals were defined by his own sense of injustice in the world.

Bonus Questions:

1. Who is Sunni?

2. In a letter to Ron, Chris tells him to visit one of the greatest sights on the Earth. What is it?

3. Name one thing Ron gave Chris for his adventure?

*Into the Wild* by John Krakauer

Summary of Chapters 8 & 9.

Krakauer explains that he received a lot of negative mail after the original article about McCandless ran in Outside magazine, largely from Alaskans who thought McCandless didn’t respect the wilderness, and acted stupidly and stubbornly. There were a few other notorious men known in Alaska for similar things, so Krakauer tells their stories in the hopes of highlighting their differences.

The first was Gene Rossellini, a brilliant man who had decided to see if man could still live as in pre-technology days. He survived for over a decade with only tools he made himself. Though the circumstances aren’t clear whether it was accidental or on purpose, Rosellini killed himself.

A second young man often compared to McCandless was John Waterman. He was a very talented young climber. Waterman had a troubled relationship with his father, a tragic personal life, and a very eccentric personality. He became more and more unhinged, and eventually embarked on a suicidal climb of Denali. He was never seen again and presumed dead.

Carl McCunn is the third man often compared to McCandless. He was an amateur photographer from Texas who moved to Alaska in the 1970’s. In 1981, he arranged to be flown into the wilderness for five months, where he planned to shoot pictures of wildlife. He forgot, however, to arrange to be picked up, and so ended up killing himself as he slowly and painfully starved and froze to death.

Everett Ruess is the fourth (and last) figure that Krakauer compares to McCandless. Ruess was born in 1914 in California and went on his first extended solo trip hitchhiking at age sixteen. With a few exceptions, Ruess spent the rest of his life on the move, living out of a backpack with very little money, often sleeping outside and making do with little food. He

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

wrote many letters during this time, which show his intense passion for nature and natural beauty. Like McCandless, Ruess was very much a wanderer, heedless of personal safety and undeterred by personal discomfort. He also changed his name repeatedly while journeying. The circumstances of his life after age 20 are unknown. Some believe he fell to his death while climbing on a canyon wall while others believe he just chose to disappear and lived the rest of his life under a pseudonym. One man who became an expert on him believes he drowned trying to swim across the San Juan River.

Krakauer personally believes that the only one who was like him was Ruess. Carl McCunn was more naïve, John Waterman was actually mentally insane, but Everett Ruess was deeply in love with the land, very romantic, and passionate about his principles. These comparisons highlight the purpose of *Into the Wild* itself, which is not just to tell an adventure story, but to study McCandless in the closest possible detail, so that if anyone is to pass judgment, it is at least with all the necessary information.

**You are not required to read Chapters 8 & 9 in Krakauer’s book, but I am offering extra credit to those of you who do. An extra credit quiz grade will be offered to anyone who completes the study guide for these chapters.**