**Please read this summary of Chapters 14 & 15.**

Highlight the details which help reveal the character of Chris McCandless.

Krakauer, like McCandless, was a willful, self-absorbed, passionate, and moody child who had problems with male authority figures. He becomes obsessed with climbing in his late teens, and spends all his time planning dangerous climbs. At 23, he plans on an especially dangerous climb in Alaska, and determines to go it alone. He is dimly aware that he might be getting in over his head, but that is part of the point, and only encourages his zeal.

He quits his carpentry job in Colorado and drives to Alaska. To get there required either a jet or a boat, so he abandons his car and gets passage on a workboat. Krakauer arrives in Petersburg and meets a woman who kindly invites him home for dinner and a place to sleep. He begins his journey the next morning, and the first two days go well. Everything feels more intense because of his solitude.

On the third day, just as he is approaching the most dangerous and intimidating part yet, a snow storm breaks and he loses all visibility. Twice he almost falls, and it takes him an entire day to make it through the dangerous icefall. He reaches the place where a pilot is supposed to drop his food to him, but the relentless snow means the conditions are too poor, so he just has to keep waiting as his supplies dwindle.

The plane finally comes, and the next day he starts his actual climb. He gets into a rhythm and makes significant progress, but he gets to a point of severely thinned-out ice which is impassable. He has no choice but to go back down.

The weather turns bad, and Krakauer is confined to a tent for three days. Accidentally he starts a fire that damages his tent – the tent his father loaned him, leaving him vulnerable to much colder conditions.

Krakauer’s relationship with his father is very strained. Krakauer believes that only perfection will please his father, and he does his best to live up to those expectations. When family secrets are revealed and he realizes his father is not perfect, his anger and resentment become extreme. It is only decades later that he can accept his father as human.

When the weather clears, Krakauer decides to try to climb again. This time he makes it only 100 feet up before the weather forces him to stop, and his descent is terrifying and almost fatal. He has to give up his plan on climbing the north face, so he decides to climb an easier route. With almost no gear, he reaches the summit after a quick and dangerous climb, takes a few pictures, and heads back down. He makes it back safely, and a week later, he is back in Colorado, working the same construction job he had before he left.

In these two chapters, it is obvious how many similarities there are between Krakauer and McCandless. Krakauer could understand McCandless’ motivations, without having ever met him due to their similar circumstances and personalities. He tries to make it clear that Chris was almost surely not suicidal. Unlike McCandless, Krakauer was able to accept (or grasp the idea) there are some things, no matter your will or determination that are impossible.

**You are not required to read Chapters 14 & 15 in Krakauer’s book, but you may choose to read the chapters and complete the study guide for extra credit. You will find the questions on Edmodo.**