**When you are finished with the quiz, please read this 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

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 we are 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.**