*Into the Wild* - The Importance of Names

1. What is the difference between an alias and a pseudonym?

2. To what extent is a person’s name critical to his or her identity? Are individual names even needed?

**Writing Assignment**: In a short essay, include thoughts on most/all of the following questions:

* What is your full name? Who calls you by your full name?
* Does your name make you proud? embarrassed? self-conscious? something else?
* Were you named after anyone?
* Who chose your name? What other names were considered? Why did they choose that name? *Relate the story if there is one.*
* Is there a traditional meaning associated with your name?
* What nicknames do your family and friends call you?
* Do you like your name? nickname? Would you change it if you could?
* What names do people accidentally call you?
* Is your name common, unusual, or easily confused/misspelled/mispronounced?
* Does anyone criticize or compliment you for your name? *Relate the story if there is one.*
* Does anyone treat you differently because of your name?
* Are there any important or famous people who share your name? Do you share anything else in common with them?
* To what extent is your name critical to YOUR identity?
* If you could create a new name for yourself, what would you choose? Elaborate on your choice.
* Use the phrase “Like/Unlike the main character of Chris McCandless in *Into the Wild*,” meaningfully in your essay.

Bring your Rough Draft to class on Thursday for peer editing feedback.