

**ARROWHEAD UNION HIGH SCHOOL  
LITERATURE TEXT ADOPTION RECOMMENDATION**

**DEPARTMENT** Language Arts

**SCHOOL YEAR** 2010-2011

**CLASS** English 11

**REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS** Sarah Johansen, Jennifer Passler, Kathy Nelson, Emily Knippel, Stephanie Janigo, Mike Feuerstahler

<b>RECOMMENDED TEXT</b> Into the Wild	<b>TEXT BEING REPLACED</b>
AUTHOR Jon Krakauer	AUTHOR
PUBLISHER First Anchor Books	PUBLISHER
COST \$12.95	COST
COPYRIGHT 1996	COPYRIGHT

<b>OTHER TEXTS REVIEWED</b>	
NAME OF TEXT	NAME OF TEXT
AUTHOR	AUTHOR
PUBLISHER	PUBLISHER
COPYRIGHT	COPYRIGHT

**RATIONALE FOR LITERATURE TEXT PURCHASE** (check all that apply)

- Previous texts are worn
- Previous texts are outdated
- There was a change in curriculum
- Text rotation
- Other Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

The following has been taken into consideration in the selection of this literature text.

**CONTENT**

- Meets state and national standards
- Meets local Power Standards
- Aligns with course curriculum
- Integrates with other content areas
- Reflects a cultural and pluralistic society
- Appropriate for age group
- Provokes critical discourse
- Reflects board policy for selection of materials

*Please explain any areas not checked and/or elaborate on the qualities of the book chosen.*

*ARROWHEAD UNION HIGH SCHOOL*  
*TEACHER'S RATIONALE FOR LITERATURE IN THE CURRICULUM*

DEPARTMENT Language Arts

CLASS English 11

GRADE LEVEL(S) 11

TEACHER COMPLETING FORM Emily Knippel

Approximate date(s) a book will be used:  Semester 1  Semester 2

This book will be (check one or more):

- studied by the whole class.
- studied by small groups.
- placed on a reading list.
- recommended to individual students.
- part of a larger study of (explain):
- other (explain):

Ways in which the book is especially appropriate for students in this class:

This novel is a story of a recent college graduate who decides that the wealthy, easy life he has lead prior to current day is not the life he wishes to continue to live. Giving all money to charity, character Chris McCandless hits the road to live a life outside of "society". Students are baffled by McCandless's choices, but gives them a nice perspective on one's journey to find peace in a world he/she views as hypocritical.

Ways in which the book is especially pertinent to the objectives of this course or unit:

Written by an American author, this novel has multiple themes appropriate for any of the English 11 theme-based curriculum. Used for the Journey, Nature, and Freedom Units mostly, this novel is a great representation of a young character on a personal journey to find oneself as well as an actual journey through the wild to become one with nature. Students can relate to the rebellious character whom is trying to gain freedom from his parents and societal influences.

Indicate types of concepts in this book that might be questionable to some readers:

(for example: explicit sexuality, violence, profanity, etc.)

Profanity, brief references to nudity and drugs

Recommendation for parent notification:  Yes  No

Special problems that might arise in relation to the book and some planned activities that handle this problem:

Some of the language may be a bit difficult: include vocabulary lessons; The book is very unorganized (does not move in chronological order) - map out every few lessons to keep students on target; Lots of characters, none particularly "main", but all influntial to McCandless: use graphic organizers to keep characters clear / Venn Diagrams for nice comparison

Some other appropriate books an individual student might read in place of this book: Into Thin Air (Krakauer); Grapes of Wrath (Steinbeck); Out of the Dust (Hesse - simpler text); Call of the Wild (London)

Summary of the book:

After graduating from Emory University in Atlanta in 1992, top student and athlete Christopher McCandless abandoned his possessions, gave his entire \$24,000 savings account to charity and hitchhiked to Alaska, where he went to live in the wilderness. Four months later, he turned up dead. His diary, letters and two notes found at a remote campsite tell of his desperate effort to survive, apparently stranded by an injury and slowly starving. They also reflect the posturing of a confused young man, raised in affluent Annandale, Va., who self-consciously adopted a Tolstoyan renunciation of wealth and return to nature. Krakauer, a contributing editor to Outside and Men's Journal, retraces McCandless's ill-fated antagonism toward his father, Walt, an eminent aerospace engineer. Krakauer also draws parallels to his own reckless youthful exploit in 1977 when he climbed Devils Thumb, a mountain on the Alaska-British Columbia border, partly as a symbolic act of rebellion against his autocratic father. In a moving narrative, Krakauer probes the mystery of McCandless's death, which he attributes to logistical blunders and to accidental poisoning from eating toxic seed pods. Maps. 35,000 first printing; author tour. (Publishers Weekly, 1995)

Reviews and/or awards of the book or author:

"God, he was a smart kid..." So why did Christopher McCandless trade a bright future--a college education, material comfort, uncommon ability and charm--for death by starvation in an abandoned bus in the woods of Alaska? This is the question that Jon Krakauer's book tries to answer. While it doesn't—cannot—answer the question with certainty, Into the Wild does shed considerable light along the way. Not only about McCandless's "Alaskan odyssey," but also the forces that drive people to drop out of society and test themselves in other ways. Krakauer quotes Wallace Stegner's writing on a young man who similarly disappeared in the Utah desert in the 1930s: "At 18, in a dream, he saw himself ... wandering through the romantic waste places of the world. No man with any of the juices of boyhood in him has forgotten those dreams." Into the Wild shows that McCandless, while extreme, was hardly unique; the author makes the hermit into one of us, something McCandless himself could never pull off. By book's end, McCandless isn't merely a newspaper clipping, but a sympathetic, oddly magnetic personality. Whether he was "a courageous idealist, or a reckless idiot," you won't soon forget Christopher McCandless. (Amazon.com Review)

*Once approved, a copy of the Rationale for Literature in the Curriculum should be posted on the AHS web page.*

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*Department Chair/Department Liaison Signature*

*Date*

This form must be completed and on file with the district administrator before purchasing materials.