

Vocabulary Study

Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer

Grades 11-12

Lesson Introduction/Overview

Vocabulary words, definitions, derivatives, and quotations

An alphabetical listing of the ten words in each section is given at the beginning of each section. The definitions are given in the order that the words appear in the text. The part of speech indicated in the definition corresponds to the way the word is used in the quotation provided from the text. Common derivatives and terms related to the words are listed below each definition.

Complete List of Words

A complete list of words is provided in alphabetical order.

Fill-in-the-Blank Activity

The sentences in this activity correspond to the sequence of events in the chapters. Many of the sentences require students to add an inflectional ending or use another form of the word to correctly complete the sentence, adding a higher level of thinking to the lesson. It would also be helpful to discuss with students the grammatical function of the vocabulary word in each sentence.

Multiple Choice Exam

The students are tested on 25 of the words, encouraging them to study all 50 words to be ready for the test. Teachers might also require students to use words correctly in an original sentence that they create.

Writing Activity

This essay assignment is designed to complement the vocabulary study and is intended to be used after students complete the novel. Since the writing activity is based on a specific passage, it is suitable for a timed writing activity. Students should be encouraged to use the new vocabulary from this lesson in their essays.

Acknowledgment

The words, definitions, and quotations are presented in the order in which they appear in the Random House edition, New York: 1996.

Materials and Resources:

- Copy of lesson for each student
- Copy of *Into The Wild* by Jon Krakauer

Alphabetical Listing of Words

altruistic	idiosyncratic
anchorites	incendiary
anomalous	indelible
atavistic	indigent
autocratic	indolently
autonomy	itinerant
bourgeois	laconic
brazenly	lambasting
clemency	leverage
concocted	liability
confrères	munificence
contumacious	ostensibly
convivial	paucity
egress	perambulation
equanimity	plebian
eremitic	primordial
existential	rapport
extemporaneous	recondite
fatuous	recumbent
fecund	reminisce
fulminate	sanctimonious
harangues	sedentary
hauteur	sere
histrionic	taiga
ideologue	volition

Answer keys for the sentence completion and multiple choice quizzes for this lesson are not included in open source materials. As the teacher of record, you may obtain copies of these answer keys by sending a message from your school email address to the NMSI help desk at HelpDesk@nms.org. Include your name, course taught, the name of your school, and your city and state.

Vocabulary Study

Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer

Note: The words in each section are listed in alphabetical order. The words, definitions, and quotations are presented in the order in which they appear in the Random House edition, New York: 1996.

List 1

altruistic
bourgeois
contumacious
egress
ideologue

indolently
itinerant
plebian
primordial
sere

1. **contumacious** (kon-too-mey-shuhs) *adj.* stubbornly perverse or rebellious; willfully and obstinately disobedient

derivatives: contumaciously, contumaciousness, contumacity

“Thompson, Samel, and Swanson, however, are **contumacious** Alaskans with a special fondness for driving motor vehicles where motor vehicles aren’t really designed to be driven” (11).

2. **itinerant** (ahy-tin-er-uhnt) *adj.* traveling from place to place; working in one place for a comparatively short time and then moving on to work in another place, usually as a physical or outdoor laborer; characterized by alternating periods of working and wandering

derivatives: itinerantly

“McCandless was smallish with the hard, stringy physique of an **itinerant** laborer” (16).

3. **plebian** (pli-bee-uhn) *adj.* common, as opposed to sophisticated or upper-class; having to do with common people

derivatives: none

“He liked the community’s stasis, its **plebian** virtues and unassuming mien” (18).

4. **altruistic** (al-troo-is-tik) *adj.* unselfishly concerned for or devoted to the welfare of others

derivatives: altruism, altruistically

“The latter is a reference to Tolstoy’s protagonist and alter ego, Pierre Bezuhov—**altruistic**, questing, illegitimately born” (19).

5. **egress** (ee-gres) *n.* a means or place of going out; an exit

derivatives: also a verb (ih-gres), egression, egressive, egressor

“There was nowhere to move the car, however, as the only route of **egress** was now a foaming, full-blown river” (28).

6. **indolently** (in-dl-uhnt-lee) *adv.* being lazy; slothful; having a disposition to avoid exertion

derivatives: indolent, indolence

“Emasculated by dams and diversion canals, the lower Colorado burbles **indolently** from reservoir to reservoir through some of the hottest, starkest country on the continent” (32).

7. **sere** (seer) *adj.* dry; withered

derivatives: sereily

“The desert sharpened the sweet ache of his longing, amplified it, gave shape to it in **sere** geology and clean slant of light” (32).

8. **ideologue** (ahy-dee-uh-lawg) *n.* a person who zealously advocates an ideology, which is any body of doctrine, myth, belief, etc., that guides an individual, social movement, institution, class, or large group

derivatives: ideologues

“On the face of it, Bullhead City doesn’t seem like the kind of place that would appeal to an adherent of Thoreau and Tolstoy, an **ideologue** who expressed nothing but contempt for the bourgeois trappings of mainstream America” (39).

9. **bourgeois** (boor-zhwah) *adj.* belonging to, characteristic of, or consisting of the middle class; conventional; dominated or characterized by materialistic pursuits or concerns

derivatives: also a noun, bourgeoisie

“On the face of it, Bullhead City doesn’t seem like the kind of place that would appeal to an adherent of Thoreau and Tolstoy, an ideologue who expressed nothing but contempt for the **bourgeois** trappings of mainstream America” (39).

10. **primordial** (prahy-mawr-dee-uhl) *adj.* constituting a beginning; giving origin to something derived or developed; original; pertaining to or existing at or from the very beginning

derivatives: primordiality, primordially

“London’s fervent condemnation of capitalist society, his glorification of the **primordial** world, his championing of the great unwashed—all of it mirrored McCandless’s passions” (44).

List 2

equanimity
 eremitic
 fulminate
 harangues
 histrionic

indelible
 indigent
 recondite
 reminisce
 sedentary

1. **indelible** (in-del-uh-buhl) *adj.* making marks that cannot be erased, removed, etc.; cannot be eliminated, forgotten, changed, etc.

derivatives: indelibly, indelibility, indelibility

“McCandless made an **indelible** impression on a number of people during the course of his *hegira*, most of whom spent only a few days in his company, a week or two at most” (48).

2. **indigent** (in-di-juhnt) *adj.* lacking food, clothing, or other necessities of life because of poverty; needy; poor; impoverished

derivatives: also a noun, indigently

“To salve his loneliness in the years after the accident, he started unofficially ‘adopting’ **indigent** Okinawan boys and girls” (50).

3. **sedentary** (sed-n-ter-ee) *adj.* characterized by or requiring a sitting posture

derivatives: sedentarily, sedentariness

“He also turned the tables and started lecturing the grandfatherly figure about the shortcomings of his **sedentary** existence” (51).

4. **harangues** (huh-rangs) *n.* a scolding or a long or intense verbal attack; diatribe

derivatives: harangue, harangued, haranguing

“Franz took these **harangues** in stride and in fact delighted in the boy’s company” (51).

5. **reminisce** (rem-uh-nis) *v.* to recall past experiences, events, etc.

derivatives: reminisced, reminiscing

“[S]quinting at the sky, he begins to **reminisce** further about the time he spent in the youngster’s company” (52).

6. **fulminate** (**fuhl**-muh-neyt) *v.* to issue denunciations or the like; to explode loudly

derivatives: also a noun, fulminating, fulminated, fulminator, fulminatory

“Not infrequently during their visits, Franz recalls, McCandless’s face would darken with anger and he’d **fulminate** about his parents or politicians or the endemic idiocy of mainstream American life” (52).

7. **histrionic** (his-tree-**on**-ik) *adj.* deliberately affected or self-consciously emotional; overly dramatic, in behavior or speech

derivatives: histrionically

“McCandless’s postcards, notes, and journals . . . read like the work of an above average, somewhat **histrionic** high school kid” (72).

8. **recondite** (**rek**-uhn-dahyt, ri-**kon**-dahyt) *adj.* dealing with very profound, difficult, or abstruse subject matter; beyond ordinary knowledge or understanding, esoteric; little known or obscure

derivatives: reconditely, reconditeness

“In mid-winter a field biologist discovered all his belongings—two rifles, camping gear, a diary filled with incoherent ranting about truth and beauty and **recondite** ecological theory—in an empty cabin near Tofty, its interior filled with drifted snow” (72).

9. **eremitic** (er-uh-**mih**-tik) *adj.* having to do with or like a hermit or recluse, especially one under a religious vow

derivatives: eremite, eremitish, eremitism

“Writing about his death, Edward Hoagland observed that Alaska is ‘not the best site in the world for **eremitic** experiments or peace-love theatrics’” (73).

10. **equanimity** (ee-kwuh-**nim**-i-tee, ek-wuh) *n.* mental or emotional stability or composure, especially under tension or strain; calmness; equilibrium

derivatives: equanimous, equanimously

“Rosellini appeared to accept the failure of his hypothesis with **equanimity**” (75).

List 3

anchorites
atavistic
brazenly
concocted
incendiary

leverage
liability
ostensibly
paucity
rapport

1. **paucity** (**paw-si-tee**) *n.* smallness of quantity; insufficiency; fewness; scarcity; scantiness

derivatives: none

“Like Waterman and McCunn, he displayed a staggering **paucity** of common sense” (85).

2. **brazenly** (**brey-zuhn-lee**) *adv.* shamelessly or impudently

derivatives: brazen, brazeness

“Two days after arriving in [Carmel], he **brazenly** knocked on the door of Edward Weston, who was sufficiently charmed by the overwrought young man to humor him” (89).

3. **atavistic** (**at-uh-vis-tik**) *adj.* reverting to or suggesting the characteristics of a remote ancestor or primitive type

derivatives: atavism, atavistically

“Ruess was, in the words of Wallace Stegner, ‘a callow romantic, an adolescent esthete, an **atavistic** wanderer of the wastelands’” (90).

4. **incendiary** (**in-sen-dee-er-ee**) *adj.* tending to arouse strife, sedition, etc.; inflammatory

derivatives: also a noun, incendiaries

“[O]ne is struck by Ruess’s craving for connection with the natural world and by his almost **incendiary** passion for the country through which he walked” (91).

5. **anchorites** (**ang-kuh-rahyts**) *n.* a person who has retired to a solitary place for a life or religious seclusion; hermit

derivatives: anchorite, anchoritic, anchoritically, anchoritism

“[T]hese remarkable voyages were . . . undertaken chiefly from the wish to find lonely places, where these **anchorites** might dwell in peace, undisturbed by the turmoil and temptations of the world” (97).

6. **ostensibly** (**uh-sten-suh-blee**) *adv.* outwardly appearing as such; professed; pretended

derivatives: ostensible

“Loren Johnson, Billie’s father, **ostensibly** worked as a truck driver, ‘but he never held any job for long,’ she says” (108).

7. **rapport** (**ra-pohr**) *n.* relation; connection, especially harmonious or sympathetic relation

derivatives: none

“Around Iron Mountain his **rapport** with the creatures of the forest was legendary” (108).

8. **concocted** (**kon-kok-tid**) *v.* to devise; make up; contrive

derivatives: concoct, concocting, concocter, concoctor, concoctive

“He relished the role and **concocted** novel, grueling training regimens that his teammates still remember well” (112).

9. **liability** (**lahy-uh-bil-i-tee**) *n.* something disadvantageous

derivatives: liabilities

“Chris answered that careers were demeaning ‘twentieth-century inventions,’ more of a **liability** than an asset, and that he would do fine without one, thank you” (114).

10. **leverage** (**lev-er-ij**) *n.* power or ability or act or to influence people, events, decisions, etc.

derivatives: also a verb, leveraged, leveraging

“Chris, if you really want to make a difference in the world, if you really want to help people who are less fortunate, get yourself some **leverage** first” (114).

List 4

anomalous
 clemency
 confrères
 convivial
 existential

extemporaneous
 fatuous
 idiosyncratic
 recumbent
 sanctimonious

1. **convivial** (kuhn-**viv**-ee-uhl) *adj.* friendly; agreeable; fond of feasting, drinking, a merry company; enjoying parties; jovial

derivatives: convivialist, conviviality, convivially

“He was intensely private but could be **convivial** and gregarious in the extreme” (115).

2. **clemency** (klem-uhn-see) *n.* an act or deed showing mercy or leniency

derivatives: clement

“Children can be harsh judges when it comes to their parents, disinclined to grant **clemency**, and this was especially true in Chris’s case” (122).

3. **sanctimonious** (sang-k-tuh-**moh**-nee-uhs) *adj.* making a hypocritical show of religious devotion, piety, righteousness, etc.

derivatives: sanctimony, sanctimoniously, sanctimoniousness

“Chris would fixate on his father’s own less than sterling behavior many years earlier and silently denounce him as a **sanctimonious** hypocrite” (122).

4. **anomalous** (uh-**nom**-uh-luhs) *adj.* not fitting into a common or familiar type, classification, or pattern; unusual; incongruous or inconsistent

derivatives: anomalously, anomalousness

“Chris’s seemingly **anomalous** political positions were perhaps best summoned up by Thoreau’s declaration in ‘Civil Disobedience’: ‘I heartily accept the motto—“That government is best which governs least”’” (123).

5. **idiosyncratic** (id-ee-oh-sin-**krat**-ik, -sing-) *adj.* pertaining to the nature of something peculiar to an individual

derivatives: idiosyncratically

“The opinions he expressed in print, argued with **idiosyncratic** logic, were all over the map” (123).

6. **confrères** (kon-frairs) *n.* a fellow member of a fraternity, profession, etc.; colleague

derivatives: confrère

“To his dwindling number of **confrères**, McCandless appeared to grow more intense with each passing month” (123-124).

7. **extemporaneous** (ik-stem-puh-**rey**-nee-uhs) *adj.* done, spoken, performed, etc., without special advance preparation; impromptu

derivatives: extemporaneously, extemporaneousness, extemporaneity

“As soon as classes ended in the spring of 1989, Chris took his Datsun on another prolonged, **extemporaneous** road trip” (124).

8. **fatuous** (fach-oo-uhs) *adj.* silly or foolish

derivatives: fatuously, fatuousness

“Such bereavement, witnessed at close range, makes even the most eloquent apologia for high-risk activities ring **fatuous** and hollow” (132).

9. **existential** (eg-zi-**sten**-shuhl, ek-si-) *adj.* pertaining to (one’s) existence or the reason thereof

derivatives: existentially, existentialism

“In 1977, while brooding on a Colorado barstool, picking unhappily at my **existential** scabs, I got it into my head to climb a mountain called the Devil’s Thumb” (134).

10. **recumbent** (ri-**kuhm**-buhnt) *adj.* lying down; reclining; leaning

derivatives: recumbence, recumbency, recumbently

“I spent most of my time **recumbent** in the tent—the ceiling was too low to allow my sitting upright” (140).

List 5

autocratic
 autonomy
 fecund
 hauteur
 laconic

lambasting
 munificence
 perambulation
 taiga
 volition

1. **autocratic** (aw-tuh-**krat**-ik) *adj.* tyrannical; despotic; domineering; pertaining to the nature of absolute authority

derivatives: autocratically, autocratical

“A kind and generous man, Lewis Krakauer loved his five children deeply, in the **autocratic** way of fathers” (147).

2. **volition** (voh-**lish**-uhn, vuh-) *n.* will or determination

derivatives: volitional, volitionalary, volitionally

“I was forced to acknowledge that **volition** alone, however powerful, was not going to get me up the north wall” (151).

3. **laconic** (luh-**kon**-ik) *adj.* using few words; expressing much in few words; concise

derivatives: laconically

“Having neglected to pack writing paper, he began a **laconic** journal on some blank pages in the back of *Tanaina Plantlore*” (162).

4. **taiga** (**tahy**-guh) *n.* the coniferous evergreen forests of subarctic lands, covering vast areas of northern North America and Eurasia

derivatives: none

“By mid-May the sun was circling high in the heavens, flooding the **taiga** with light” (164).

5. **perambulation** (per-am-byoo-**ley**-shun) *n.* the act of walking through, about, or over; to travel through; to traverse

derivatives: perambulate, perambulating, perambulated, perambulatory

“On May 5, after pausing for four days at the bus, he resumed his **perambulation**” (164).

6. **autonomy** (aw-**ton**-uh-mee) *n.* self-government, or the right to self-government; independence

derivatives: autonomies, autonomist

“He seemed to have moved beyond his need to assert so adamantly his **autonomy**, his need to separate himself from his parents” (168).

7. **lambasting** (lam-**bey**-sting, lam-**ba**-sting) *v.* to reprimand or berate harshly; censure; excoriate

derivatives: lambast, lambaste, lambasted

“Among the letters **lambasting** McCandless, virtually all those I received mentioned his misidentification of the caribou as proof that he didn’t know the first thing about surviving in the back-country” (178).

8. **hauteur** (hoh-**tur**) *n.* haughty manner or spirit; arrogance

derivatives: none

“Some critics have even drawn parallels between McCandless and the Arctic’s most infamous tragic figure, Sir John Franklin, a nineteenth-century British naval officer whose smugness and **hauteur** contributed to some 140 deaths, including his own” (180).

9. **fecund** (fee-kuhnd, fek-uhnd) *adj.* producing or capable of producing offspring, fruit, vegetation, etc. in abundance; fertile

derivatives: none

“It was the height of summer, the country was a **fecund** riot of plant and animal life, and his food supply was adequate” (188).

10. **munificence** (myoo-**nif**-uh-suhns) *n.* very liberal in giving; generous

derivatives: munificent, munificently

“But despite this apparent **munificence**, the meat he’d been killing was very lean, and he was consuming fewer calories than he was burning” (188).

Fill-in-the-Blank Activity
Into the Wild

Using the words below, fill in the blanks with suitable vocabulary choices. Each word or its derivative is used once.

List 1

altruistic
bourgeois
contumacious
egress
ideologue

indolently
itinerant
plebian
primordial
sere

1. Due to his nomadic lifestyle, McCandless may seem _____ but he is actually working hard to challenge himself.
2. Carthage, a town characterized by blue-collar workers and plainness, reflects the common decency of _____ values.
3. Chris McCandless embraces his _____ lifestyle, one at odds with the staid, settled life his parents hoped he would lead.
4. McCandless places great value on self-reliance and autonomy, but he views _____ as an equally important virtue.
5. The _____ desert surrounding the Grand Canyon is very different from the lush greenery down beside the river.
6. McCandless' _____ from the desert is blocked by a flash flood. The path back to civilization is covered in water.
7. Krakauer's guides along McCandless' trail are _____ Alaskans who do as they please regardless of rules or society's approbation.
8. McCandless is a strict _____, though his ideals are difficult for him—or anyone else—to live up to.
9. Jack London's praise of the _____ world and preference for pristine places makes a deep impression on McCandless.

10. McCandless rejects the materialistic, _____ success of his parents, preferring to live up to a definition of success beyond mere middle-class comfort.

List 2

equanimity
 eremitic
 indelible
 indigent
 fulminate

harangues
 histrionic
 recondite
 reminisce
 sedentary

1. The writings of Tolstoy leave a/an _____ impression on Chris McCandless that even extreme circumstances cannot alter or erase.
2. Ronald Franz often pays for _____ children to go to school or to get the other supplies they need but cannot otherwise afford.
3. Franz tolerates McCandless' _____ because he loves the young man so much. He does not mind the lectures, and even follows McCandless' advice from time to time.
4. McCandless warns Franz that a/an _____ lifestyle is not good for one's health. Franz takes him at his word, and begins travelling.
5. Even though the memories are not always cheerful, Franz _____ with Krakauer about the impact McCandless had on him.
6. Rosellini accepts his failure in the wild with _____, retaining his composure despite the challenges and time lost.
7. Franz listens patiently, waiting for the outburst to pass, as McCandless _____ against his family and American society in general.
8. McCandless realizes his friends may be puzzled by many of the _____ topics that he finds interesting.
9. Individuals seeking _____ experiences often travel to Alaska, despite the dangers, so they may become one with nature or their spiritual beliefs.
10. McCandless' critics like to portray him as just one more stupid, _____ youth whose taste for melodrama was greater than his common sense.

List 3

anchorites
 atavistic
 brazenly
 concocted
 incendiary

leverage
 liability
 ostensibly
 paucity
 rapport

1. Everett Ruess is _____ enough to go after whatever he wants, no matter how daunting the task.
2. Krakauer suggests that McCandless is just one more pilgrim or hermit in a long line of _____ who had preceded him.
3. McCandless spends his college years _____ working towards becoming a lawyer, but he has no intention of practicing law.
4. Ruess seems like a/an _____ explorer. He seems to be like his prehistoric ancestors might have been.
5. McCandless' _____ views on wealth and self-reliance are practically treason in his parents' eyes, and liable to start a fight between him and his father.
6. McCandless may not appear to have a/an _____ of common sense, but he has plenty of self-confidence.
7. Loren Johnson, Chris McCandless' grandfather, is legendary for his _____ with and understanding of animals.
8. McCandless thinks a typical career is a/an _____, but the unfortunate events that end his life have nothing to do with either his employability or his freedom.
9. McCandless' mother, Billie, thinks that a law degree will give Chris the _____ he needs in order to make a difference in the world, but Chris thinks a degree will not give him the kind of power he wants.
10. McCandless _____ ever more difficult training regimens for his cross-country team.

List 4

anomalous
 clemency
 confrères
 convivial
 existential

extemporaneous
 fatuous
 idiosyncratic
 recumbent
 sanctimonious

1. Though Chris McCandless enjoys solitude, he is also very _____, and enjoys spending time with his friends.
2. McCandless is disinclined to grant his father _____. He cannot be merciful towards his father's faults and mistakes.
3. After finding out about his father's previous relationship, McCandless, who disdains all manner of _____, realizes that his father is someone more concerned with what looks right than what is right.
4. McCandless' reasoning for doing anything is as _____ as anything else he does. His mind works in a way like no one else's.
5. McCandless takes great pleasure in spending time with his _____ at parties or at work.
6. Krakauer believes that McCandless went to Alaska searching for answers to life's big questions, concerned with _____ rather than his demise.
7. With his unusual political views, unique way of approaching people, Chris McCandless' _____ prevent him from being a stereotypical character.
8. People who have lived in Alaska a long time look at people like McCandless, Ruess, and other adventurers as merely _____ dreamers with unrealistic expectations of the challenges involved in living there.
9. McCandless' sudden, unplanned road trip to Guatemala became a/an _____ visit to Alaska instead.
10. Listening to Kai sleeping in the next room, Krakauer, _____ in his sleeping bag, realizes that he misses the company of a woman.

List 5

autocratic
 autonomy
 fecund
 hauteur
 laconic

lambasting
 munificence
 perambulation
 taiga
 volition

1. McCandless insists on maintaining his _____ in many ways. He refuses to do what other people tell him to and he relies on himself as much as possible.
2. As he ascends the north face of the Devil's Thumb, Krakauer discovers he is primarily relying on _____ as much as skill for the climb.
3. McCandless' _____ journal is terse from necessity, not from inclination. There is not much space for him to write in the margins of his books.
4. The Alaskan _____ is beautiful and lush in springtime in comparison to its barrenness during the winter.
5. After setting up a kind of base camp at the bus, McCandless spends his days _____ through the area, hunting and observing as he walks.
6. Chris often _____ his father in his letters to his sister, but Krakauer suggests Chris' attitude may have softened while in Alaska.
7. In early July, McCandless describes in his journal the _____ of wildlife afforded during an Alaskan summer, yet on July 30th he records the word STARVING.
8. Many Alaskans speculate that McCandless' _____ was more to blame for his death than his stupidity, confirming the adage, "Pride goeth before a fall."
9. The taiga is _____ in the summertime, with plenty of plant life to forage for survival.
10. Krakauer and McCandless both have fairly _____ fathers, well-meaning but somewhat dictatorial.

Multiple Choice Exam
Into Thin Air

1. contumacious
 - a. generous
 - b. dead
 - c. fat
 - d. threatening
 - e. rebellious
2. paucity
 - a. shame
 - b. lack
 - c. malice
 - d. severity
 - e. ignorance
3. autocratic
 - a. obese
 - b. dictatorial
 - c. admirable
 - d. haughty
 - e. unruly
4. indigent
 - a. angry
 - b. striped
 - c. poor
 - d. happy
 - e. hysterical
5. clemency
 - a. mercy
 - b. nausea
 - c. celebration
 - d. bashful
 - e. thoughtful
6. indelible
 - a. permanent
 - b. refractory
 - c. decorous
 - d. sycophantic
 - e. sweet
7. convivial
 - a. trickery
 - b. arcane
 - c. friendly
 - d. discovery
 - e. urbane
8. altruistic
 - a. indigent
 - b. generous
 - c. rebellious
 - d. nonchalant
 - e. indolent
9. brazenly
 - a. boldly
 - b. ineptly
 - c. cheerfully
 - d. brassy
 - e. lonely
10. volition
 - a. bias
 - b. willpower
 - c. poverty
 - d. equality
 - e. apathy

11. egress

- a. exit
- b. eager
- c. pugnacious
- d. mean
- e. female egret

12. incendiary

- a. freely
- b. vacillating
- c. grumpy
- d. inflammatory
- e. authoritatively

13. laconic

- a. concise
- b. lazy
- c. misunderstood
- d. punctilious
- e. composed

14. histrionic

- a. apolitical
- b. historical
- c. impulsive
- d. melodramatic
- e. imprudent

15. fatuous

- a. foolish
- b. exception
- c. obese
- d. serious
- e. narrative

16. harangues

- a. artifacts
- b. lectures
- c. gallows
- d. magic spells
- e. pies

17. confrères

- a. thunders
- b. friends
- c. militaries
- d. pastries
- e. conspiracies

18. indolently

- a. bewilderingly
- b. uncomfortably
- c. lazily
- d. antagonistically
- e. inebriatedly

19. rapport

- a. misunderstanding
- b. fanaticism
- c. preservation
- d. antagonism
- e. connection

20. autonomy

- a. automotive
- b. anatomy
- c. loneliness
- d. uncertainty
- e. independence

21. sere

- a. insignia
- b. parched
- c. rebellious
- d. blinding
- e. sedate

22. recondite

- a. obscure
- b. exultant
- c. whiny
- d. enquiring
- e. berating

23. leverage

- a. pacify
- b. adorn
- c. tidy
- d. power
- e. barrage

24. recumbent

- a. sobriety
- b. acquiesced
- c. empowered
- d. resisting
- e. reclining

25. fecund

- a. burdened
- b. smelly
- c. fertile
- d. fecal
- e. feckless

Writing Activity

Into The Wild

In reporting on McCandless' life, author Jon Krakauer connects McCandless' Alaskan adventure with the adventures of himself and others who are drawn to high-risk outdoor activities or lifestyles. Use information from the following excerpts and your personal observations and experiences to craft an essay that answers the following question: Are individuals such as McCandless, Krakauer, and Franklin high risk adventure seekers or individuals drawn to nature who become victims of their own hubris?

“McCandless didn't conform particularly well to the bush-casualty stereotype. Although he was rash, untutored in the ways of the backcountry, and incautious to the point of foolhardiness, he wasn't incompetent—he wouldn't have lasted 113 days if he were. And he wasn't a nutcase, he wasn't a sociopath, he wasn't an outcast. McCandless was something else—although precisely *what* is hard to say. A pilgrim, perhaps” (84).

“As the days passed, I [Krakauer] grew increasingly anxious. I had no radio or any other means of communicating with the outside world. It had been many years since anyone had visited this part of the Stikine Ice Cap, and many more would likely pass before anyone would again. I was nearly out of stove fuel and down to a single box of Cocoa Puffs. This, I figured, could sustain me for three or four more days if need be, but then what would I do? It would take only two days to ski back down the Baird to Thomas Bay, but a week or more might easily pass before a fisherman happened by who could give me a lift back to Petersburg (the tree planters with whom I'd ridden over were camped fifteen miles down the impassable headland-studded coast and could be reached only by boat or plane)” (140).

“By design McCandless came into the country with insufficient provisions, and he lacked certain pieces of equipment deemed essential by many Alaskans: a large-caliber rifle, map and compass, an ax. This has been regarded as evidence not just of stupidity but of the even greater sin of arrogance. Some critics have even drawn parallels between McCandless and the Arctic's most infamous tragic figure, Sir John Franklin, a nineteenth-century British naval officer whose smugness and hauteur contributed to some 140 deaths, including his own.

“When McCandless turned up dead, he was likened to Franklin not simply because both men starved but also because both were perceived to have lacked a requisite humility; both were thought to have possessed insufficient respect for the land. A century after Franklin's death, the eminent explorer Vilhjalmur Stefansson pointed out that the English explorer had never taken the trouble to learn the survival skills practiced by the Indians and the Eskimos—peoples who had managed to flourish “for generations, bringing up their children and taking care of their aged” in the same harsh country that killed Franklin. (Stefansson conveniently neglected to mention that many, many Indians and Eskimos have starved in the northern latitudes as well)” (181).