

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS TEST; PLACE YOUR ANSWERS ON THE SHEET PROVIDED!

1. In chapter one, Krakauer writes, "Thompson, Samuel, and Swanson, however, are contumacious Alaskans with a special fondness for driving motor vehicles...." The underlined word means:
 - A. compelled
 - B. controlled
 - C. rebellious
 - D. self-reliant
2. "An eminent aerospace engineer who designed advanced radar systems for the space shuttle and other high-profile projects" describes
 - A. Wayne Westerberg
 - B. Jim Gallien
 - C. Walt McCandless
 - D. Loren Johnson
3. "The desert sky is encircling, majestic, terrible." The underlined portion is an example of
 - A. metaphor
 - B. asyndeton
 - C. hyperbole
 - D. allusion
4. The tone of McCandless's journal was often
 - A. melodramatic
 - B. convoluted and complicated
 - C. patronizing
 - D. flowery
5. One of McCandless's literary heroes was
 - A. Emily Dickinson
 - B. Shakespeare
 - C. Henry David Thoreau
 - D. Homer
6. Ronald A. Franz was
 - A. the forest Ranger who found McCandless's body
 - B. a trucker who gave McCandless a ride to Alaska
 - C. an 80-year-old accomplished leatherworker
 - D. an aging hippie
7. The only person in McCandless's family with whom he got along well was
 - A. his mother
 - B. his father
 - C. his step-mother
 - D. his sister

8. Something that surprised Wayne Westerberg on McCandless's final night in Carthage was
- McCandless gave Westerberg all his money
 - Westerberg discovered McCandless was an accomplished pianist
 - McCandless called his parents one last time
 - McCandless didn't drink that night
9. One critic of McCandless wrote, "McCandless died because he ignored advice and committed big-time hubris." The underlined word means
- mistakes
 - arrogance
 - unpreparedness
 - naiveté
10. Krakauer gives examples of other adventurers whose lives paralleled that of Chris McCandless. Carl McCunn, a 35-year-old amateur photographer, died
- by falling through a thin snow bridge and plummeted to his death
 - by starvation
 - by neglecting to arrange for a pilot to fly him back to civilization at summer's end
 - when the cabin he was staying in caught fire and burned to the ground
11. Wayne Westerberg was able to help the Alaska State Troopers identify Chris McCandless
- because he knew Sam McCandless from their college days
 - by giving the story to Paul Harvey to air on the radio
 - by providing them with McCandless's Social Security number
 - by sending the troopers a picture of Westerberg and McCandless together
12. "Chris marches to a different drummer" is an example of
- allusion
 - paradox
 - allegory
 - parallelism
13. On weekends, when his high school pals were attending "keggers" and trying to sneak into Georgetown bars, McCandless would
- diligently study in the university library
 - wander the streets trying to help prostitutes and homeless people
 - drink quietly in his dorm room
 - spend time with his sister Carine
14. Billie thought it was ironic that McCandless believed that "wealth was shameful, corrupting, inherently evil" because
- "Chris was a natural-born capitalist with an uncanny knack for making a buck."
 - "Chris was a child of privilege."
 - "Chris was studying to be a lawyer."
 - "Chris was really wanted to make a difference in the world."

15. The title of the book, *Into the Wild*, comes from
- A. a line in a Jack London novel
 - B. a line in the last note McCandless wrote to Westerberg
 - C. a line from Thoreau's *Walden Pond*
 - D. the mind of the author, Jon Krakauer
16. When Krakauer began his journey to climb Devil's Thumb in Alaska, he bought what to keep him from falling into an icy abyss?
- A. crampons
 - B. ten-foot curtain rods
 - C. ice picks
 - D. D-rings
17. "The siren song of the void puts you on edge" is an example of
- A. paradox
 - B. metonymy
 - C. allusion
 - D. allegory
18. While waiting to make his second attempt at climbing Devil's Thumb, the author
- A. made several short ski trips of reconnaissance
 - B. wrote copious notes in his journal
 - C. read, smoked, and nearly burned his tent down
 - D. thought about his girlfriend who was waiting back in Fairbanks
19. The author's relationship with his father could be best described as
- A. amicable and friendly
 - B. strained and difficult
 - C. distant and unemotional
 - D. loving and close
20. When McCandless crossed the Teklanika River, the author writes, "he was crossing his Rubicon." What does this phrase mean?
- A. McCandless was making the sign of the cross.
 - B. McCandless made a decision that is difficult to understand
 - C. McCandless made an irrevocable decision
 - D. McCandless was clueless about what was in store
21. The author compares McCandless's "sin of arrogance" with that of
- A. Jack London
 - B. Henry David Thoreau
 - C. Sir John Franklin
 - D. Sir Walter Scott
22. Most of McCandless's journal entries written during the time he lived in the wild are mostly about
- A. food
 - B. nature
 - C. the materialism of American culture
 - D. his desire to be his own person

23. Chris McCandless, the author believes, died from
- A. misidentified wild sweet pea seeds
 - B. moldy wild potato seeds
 - C. misidentified mushrooms
 - D. berries that are toxic if consumed in great quantity
24. What does Billie McCandless leave at the bus?
- A. Pictures of Chris
 - B. A copy of Thoreau's *Walden Pond*.
 - C. A suitcase stocked with survival supplies as well as a Bible
 - D. A set of topographical maps

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Journal entry for January 11, 1991

"A very fateful day."

After traveling some distance south, he beached the canoe on a sandbar far from shore to observe the powerful tides. An hour later violent gusts started blowing down from the desert, and the wind and tidal rips conspired to carry him out to sea. The water by this time was a chaos of whitecaps that threatened to swamp and capsize his tiny craft. The wind increased to gale force. The whitecaps grew into high, breaking waves. "In great frustration," the journal reads, he screams and beats canoe with oar. The oar breaks. Alex has one spare oar. He calms himself. If loses second oar is dead. Finally through extreme effort and much cursing he manages to beach canoe on jetty and collapses exhausted on sand at sundown. This incident led Alexander to decide to abandon canoe and return north. [p. 36]

25. During the time described by the journal entry, Chris was most likely
- A. in South Dakota
 - B. on the Teklanika River
 - C. in Mexico
 - D. on his way via irrigation canal to Slab City
26. In this passage, the reader can infer that the author
- A. had experience with fast rising tides.
 - B. was emotionally volatile and unpredictable
 - C. was describing a moment of exhilaration.
 - D. began to feel misgivings about his canoe trip
27. In lines 6-7, the writer omits the pronoun "he" and the article "the." What effect does the omission of this pronoun create?
- A. It emphasizes the conversational tone the author wishes to create.
 - B. It elaborates upon the imagery described earlier in the text.
 - C. It stresses the fact that Chris is referring to himself in the third person.
 - D. It creates a sense of urgency that reflects the dangerous situation in which he found himself.

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow:

Early on a difficult climb, especially a difficult solo climb, you constantly feel the abyss pulling at your back. To resist takes a tremendous conscious effort; you don't dare let your guard down for an instant. The siren song of the void puts you on edge; it makes your movements tentative, clumsy, herky-jerky. But as the climb goes on, you grow accustomed to the exposure, you get used to rubbing shoulders with doom, you come to believe in the reliability of your hands and feet and head. You learn to trust your self-control. By and by your attention becomes so intensely focused that you no longer notice the raw knuckles, the cramping thighs, the strain of maintaining nonstop concentration. A trancelike state settles over your efforts; the climb becomes a clear-eyed dream. Hours slide by like minutes. The accumulated clutter of day-today existence—the lapses of conscience, the unpaid bills, the bungled opportunities, the dust under the couch, the inescapable prison of your genes—all of it is temporarily forgotten, crowded from your thoughts by an overpowering clarity of purpose and by the seriousness of the task at hand. [p. 142]

28. The purpose of the use of second person in this passage is to
- create a clear connection between the author and the reader
 - describe the event so that the reader can imagine it clearly
 - connect the reader to an activity about which he or she might not have personal experience
 - to emphasize the danger that Krakauer experienced on that trip
29. The sentence that begins on line 7 with “The accumulated clutter...” contains which of the following rhetorical devices?
- metaphor
 - telegraphic syntax
 - asyndeton
 - A and B
 - B and C
30. Elsewhere in the passage, Krakauer uses all of the following EXCEPT:
- simile
 - compound sentences
 - asyndeton
 - personification
 - stylistic fragments

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow:

I won't claim to be an impartial biographer. McCandless's strange tale struck a personal note that made a dispassionate rendering of the tragedy impossible. Through most of the book, I have tried—and largely succeeded, I think—to minimize my authorial presence. But let the reader be warned: I interrupt McCandless's story with fragments of a narrative drawn from my own youth. I do so in the hope that my experiences will throw some oblique light on the enigma of Chris McCandless. [From Author's Note]

31. In this passage from the Author's Note, the reader can conclude that
- the author tried but failed to distance himself from McCandless' story
 - the author admits his emotional involvement in McCandless' story
 - the author admits his authorial intrusions
 - A and B
 - B and C

“I’ve given jobs to lots of hitchhikers over the years,” says Westerberg. “Most of them weren’t much good, didn’t really want to work. It was a different story with Alex. He was the hardest worker I’ve ever seen. Didn’t matter what it was, he’d do it: hard physical labor, mucking rotten grain and dead rats out of the bottom of the hole—jobs where you’d get so damn dirty you couldn’t even tell what you looked like at the end of the day. And he never quit in the middle of something. If he started a job, he’d finish it. It was almost like a moral thing for him. He was what you’d call extremely ethical. He set pretty high standards for himself. [p. 18]

32. The description of “Alex’s” work ethic serves to:

- A. describe the types of workers Wayne tried to hire
- B. elaborate upon the way in which Alex affected those he met on the road
- C. inform the reader about Alex’s tenacity and commitment
- D. suggest the difficulty with which Alex will deal with future challenges

33. The passage’s syntax includes all but one of the following:

- A. simple sentences
- B. telegraphic sentences
- C. concrete diction
- D. hyperbole
- E. simile

On the back pages of the book that served as his journal, he declared:

I am reborn. This is my dawn. Real life has just begun.

Deliberate Living. Conscious attention to the basics of life, and a constant attention to your immediate environment and its concerns, example → A job, a task, a book; anything requiring efficient concentration (Circumstance has no value. It is how one relates to a situation that has value. All true meaning resides in the personal relationship to a phenomenon, what it means to you).

*The Great Holiness of **FOOD**, the Vital Heat.*

Positivism, the Insurpassable Joy of the Life Aesthetic.

Absolute Truth and Honesty.

Reality.

Independence.

Finality—Stability—Consistency.

As McCandless gradually stopped rebuking himself for the waste of the moose, the contentment that began in mid-May resumed and seemed to continue through early July. Then in the midst of this idyll, came the first of two pivotal setbacks.

Satisfied, apparently, with what he had learned during his two months of solitary life in the wild, McCandless decided to return to civilization: It was time to bring his “final and greatest adventure” to a close and get himself back to the world of men and women, where he could chug a beer, talk philosophy, enthrall strangers with tales of what he’d done. He seemed to have moved beyond his need to assert so adamantly his autonomy, his need to separate himself from his parents. Maybe he was prepared to forgive their imperfections; maybe he was even prepared to forgive some of his own. McCandless seemed ready, perhaps, to go home.

Or maybe not; we can do no more than speculate about what he intended to do after he walked out of the bush. There is no question, however, that he intended to walk out.

Writing on a piece of birch bark, he made a list of things to do before he departed: "Patch Jean, Shave!, Organize pack..." Shortly thereafter he propped his Minolta on an empty oil drum and took a snapshot of himself brandishing a yellow disposable razor and grinning at the camera, clean-shaven, with new patches cut from an army blanket stitched onto the knees of his filthy jeans. He looks healthy but alarmingly gaunt. Already his cheeks are sunken. The tendons in his neck stand out like taut cables.

On July 2, McCandless finished reading Tolstoy's "Family Happiness," having marked several passages that moved him:

He was right in saying that the only certain happiness in life is to live for others...

I have lived through much, and now I think I have found what is needed for happiness. A quiet secluded life in the country, with the possibility of being useful to people to whom it is easy to do good, and who are not accustomed to have it done to them; then work which one hopes may be of some use; then rest, nature, books, music, love for one's neighbor—such is my idea of happiness. And then, on top of all that, you for a mate, and children, perhaps—what more can the heart of a man desire?

34. The first excerpt from McCandless' journal, given above in italics beginning with "I am reborn..." serves to
- A. emphasize McCandless' new desire to return to civilization
 - B. illustrate the fact that McCandless' mood of contentment had returned
 - C. explain the connection between Thoreau's and McCandless' philosophy
 - D. provide an example of how important food had become to him
35. In the sentence beginning "As McCandless gradually stopped rebuking himself for the waste of the moose" the word "rebuking" most closely means
- A. flagellating
 - B. sanctioning
 - C. blaming
 - D. lecturing
36. The passage above contains all of the following rhetorical devices except
- A. concrete diction
 - B. simile
 - C. asyndeton
 - D. alliteration
37. Why might it be considered ironic that McCandless was reading "Family Happiness" while at the bus?
- A. He unhappiness with his family is one of the reasons he was in Alaska
 - B. He had never before needed other people in his life
 - C. He had realized the importance of sharing one's life when it was too late for him to do so
 - D. A and C
 - E. A, B, and C

38. In the given passage, Krakauer uses the word “maybe” more than once. Why?
- A. He wants to be sure that the reader understands McCandless’ mental state during this time
 - B. McCandless’ journal does not cover this period of time
 - C. There is no way of knowing the reasons behind McCandless’ decision to return to civilization
 - D. There is no way of knowing what he intended to do after leaving the bus
 - E. C and D
39. In the passage, why does Krakauer describe the picture that McCandless takes of himself?
- A. To provide proof that McCandless was healthy at this period of time
 - B. To describe how McCandless looked
 - C. To foreshadow McCandless’ death
 - D. To illustrate that the list McCandless had made was supported by action as well as words
40. The tone of the second passage quoted from McCandless’ journal can be best described as
- A. solemn and depressing
 - B. calm and optimistic
 - C. satisfied but pessimistic
 - D. conversational and casual
 - E. philosophical and pedantic

Walking past the moose bones, I approach the vehicle and step through an emergency exit at the back. Immediately inside the door is the torn mattress, stained and moldering, on which McCandless expired. For some reason I am taken aback to find a collection of his possessions spread across its ticking: a green plastic canteen; a tiny bottle of water-purification tablets; a used-up cylinder of Chap Stick; a pair of insulated flight pants of the type sold in military-surplus stores; a paperback copy of the best-seller *O Jerusalem!*, its spine broken; wool mittens; a bottle of Muskol insect repellent; a full box of matches; and a pair of brown rubber work boots with the name Gallien written across the cuffs in faint black ink.

Despite the missing windows, the air inside the cavernous vehicle is stale and musty. “Wow,” Roman remarks. “It smells like dead birds in here.” A moment later I come across the source of the odor: a plastic garbage bag filled with feathers, down, and the severed wings of several birds. It appears that McCandless was saving them to insulate his clothing or perhaps to make a feather pillow.

Toward the front of the bus, McCandless’s pots and dishes are stacked on a makeshift plywood table beside a kerosene lamp. A long leather scabbard is expertly tooled with the initials R.F.: the sheath for the machete Ronald Franz gave McCandless when he left Salton City.

The boy’s blue toothbrush rest next to a half-empty tube of Colgate, a packet of dental floss, and the gold molar crown that, according to his journal, fell off his tooth three weeks into his sojourn. A few inches away sits a skull the size of a watermelon, thick ivory fangs jutting from its bleached maxillae. It is a bear skull, the remains of a grizzly shot by someone who visited the bus years before McCandless’s tenure. A message scratched in Chris’s tidy hand brackets a cranial bullet hole: ALL HAIL THE PHANTOM BEAR, THE BEAST WITHIN US ALL. ALEXANDER SUPERTRAMP. MAY 1992.

Looking up, I notice that the sheet-metal walls of the vehicle are covered with graffiti left by numerous visitors over the years. Roman points out a message he wrote when he stayed in the bus four years ago, during a traverse of the Alaska Range: NOODLE EATERS EN ROUTE TO LAKE CLARK 8/89. Like Roman, most people crawled little more than their names and a date. The longest, most eloquent graffito is one of several inscribed by McCandless, the proclamation of joy that begins with a nod to his favorite Roger Miller song: TWO YEARS HE WALKS THE EARTH. NO PHONE, NO POOL, NO PETS, NO CIGARETTES. ULTIMATE FREEDOM. AN EXTREMIST. AN AESTHETIC VOYAGER WHOSE HOME IS THE ROAD.

Immediately below this manifesto squats the stove, fabricated from a rusty oil drum. A twelve-foot section of a spruce trunk is jammed into its open doorway, and across the log are draped two pairs of torn Levi's, laid out as if to dry. One pair of jeans—waist thirty, inseam thirty-two—is patched crudely with silver duct tape; the other pair has been repaired more carefully, with scraps from a faded bedspread stitched over gaping holes in the knees and seat. This latter pair also sports a belt fashioned from a strip of blanket. McCandless, it occurs to me, must have been forced to make the belt after growing so thin that his pants wouldn't stay up without it.

Sitting down on a steel cot across from the stove to mull over this eerie tableau, I encounter evidence of McCandless's presence wherever my vision rests. Here are his toenail clippers, over there his green nylon tent spread over a missing window in front door. His Kmart hiking boots are arranged neatly beneath the stove, as though he'd soon be returning to lace them up and hit the trail. I feel uncomfortable, as if I were intruding, a voyeur who has slipped into McCandless's bedroom while he is momentarily away. Suddenly queasy, I stumble out of the bus to walk along the river and breathe some fresh air.

41. In the fourth paragraph, Krakauer calls McCandless "The boy." This choice of words serves to
- A. suggest that naiveté with which McCandless viewed the dangers presented by the Alaskan wilderness
 - B. emphasize the age difference between McCandless and Krakauer
 - C. clearly remind us of McCandless' age
 - D. suggest that the foolish mistakes McCandless made would not have been made by an older man
42. What is the purpose of including the descriptions of items left behind by McCandless?
- A. to explain the uneasy feeling that Krakauer has after entering the bus
 - B. to emphasize how untouched that part of Alaska is
 - C. to illustrate the respect with which travelers in that part of the world treat others' belongings
 - D. to describe the kind of shrine which the Fairbanks bus had become
43. Why does Krakauer include two inscriptions that McCandless made in the bus—one on the bear's skull and one on the walls of the bus?
- A. to remind the reader of how much time McCandless spent in the bus
 - B. to remind the reader of McCandless' stupidity
 - C. to remind the reader of how many people had visited the bus both before and after McCandless
 - D. to remind the reader of the philosophy that fueled McCandless' trip to Alaska
44. The word used in the passage that supports the correct answer for 38 is:
- A. manifesto
 - B. graffito
 - C. voyeur
 - D. tableau
45. At the end of paragraph 6, Krakauer mentions the "belt fashioned from a strip of blanket." This detail serves to
- A. illustrate how poorly equipped McCandless was for the Alaskan wilderness
 - B. describe how many personal possessions were left in the bus after McCandless' death
 - C. remind the reader of what McCandless' physical condition must have been like before his death
 - D. contribute to the reader's understanding of Krakauer's uneasy feeling while in the bus

These last few questions are about the book as a whole:

46. What did McCandless ultimately hope to achieve on his journey across the country and eventually into the wild?
A. he wanted to revolt against his mother, who tried to control him
B. he wanted to gather experiences in order to write a book
C. he wanted to learn how to survive without help from others
D. he wanted to live life without material possessions in the hopes of finding peace
E. he wanted to emulate Tolstoy and Tolstoy's way of life
47. Why does Krakauer include so many stories about other wanderers who had experiences similar to Chris?
A. to illustrate how many young men had a similar desire to leave civilization behind
B. to provide an opportunity for Krakauer to tell the story of his attempt to climb Devil's Thumb
C. because the factual record of McCandless' time in Alaska was so minimal
D. to shift the focus away from McCandless' difficult relationship with his parents
48. In his final message, Chris
A. stopped calling himself Alexander Supertramp
B. expressed his regret for attempting his "Alaskan adventure"
C. thanked God for a happy life
D. A and B
E. A and C
49. How does the author think McCandless really died?
A. he ate spoiled moose meat and got food poisoning as a result
B. he died of hypothermia contracted while attempting to cross the Teklanika river
C. he starved to death
D. he ate the wrong type of seed
E. the seeds he ate were moldy
50. If Chris had carried a topographical map, what could he have known that may have saved him?
A. he was only 16 miles away from a forest ranger station
B. there was a basket and pulley farther down the river that he could have used to cross
C. there were two hunting cabins stocked with food only a few miles from the bus
D. there was an easy ford further up the river
E. B and C