

Miriam Hernandez Gomez  
Humanities  
April 16, 2014

### **Achieve the Dream**

It's important to take risks, in order to succeed. In the book, *Into the Wild*, by Jon Krakauer, a young man, by the name of Chris McCandless, abandons everything that connects him to society. Chris takes on a lot of risks, to seek true happiness. The novel, *Into the Wild*, by Jon Krakauer, teaches readers to take chances in order to grow, and to reach out and grab what they want, without hesitation.

Taking risks, can be seen through Chris's actions and decisions that he makes. For example, Chris demonstrates that he's cutting off society by getting rid of his belongings, "abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet. And then he invented a new life for himself, taking up residence at the margin of our society, wandering across North America, in search of raw, transcendent experience." (Krakauer 1). Chris is leaving everything behind, in order to achieve a 'raw, transcendent experience', because it's what he wants most. He is willing to take up a riskier life, while abandoning anything that makes him feel tied down, safe, or stabilized. In addition, he writes in a letter to Wayne saying, "Tramping is too easy with all this money. My days were far more exciting when I was penniless and had to forage around for my next meal." (Krakauer 33). Chris does not want the easy way out, but would much rather work hard to get what he wants. He thinks it's better to take up a challenge, even if the challenge ends up meaning a few days without food. Chris exemplifies that taking risks has taken him on many life changing experiences.

Chris goes into the wild, because it's what he really wants. For example, he decides to go on an odyssey of his own, "Driving west out of Atlanta, he intended to invent an utterly new life for himself, one in which he would be free to wallow in unfiltered experience. To symbolize the complete severance

from his previous life, he even adopted a new name. No longer would he respond to Chris McCandless; he was now Alex Supertramp, master of his own destiny.” (Krakauer 23). Alex does not hesitate to do what he wants to do, instead he goes out and makes it happen. He even changes his name, in order to change his identity, just so he can escape society. In addition, Alex writes on a sheet of weathered plywood on May 1992, “Ten days and nights of freight trains and hitchhiking bring him to the great white north. No longer to be poisoned by civilization he flees, and walks alone upon the land to become lost in the wild.” (Krakauer 163) Alex overcomes every obstacle, that’s being thrown at him as he tries to reach his destination. He is very perseverant and patient to get what he wants. Alex goes out into the wild, to achieve his dream.

In the novel, *Into the Wild*, by Jon Krakauer, there are two lessons to be learned, which are to take chances and to take action, although it might mean pushing the limit. Chris McCandless, goes to the extremes in order to seek happiness. He stops at nothing, in order to reach his goal. If someone really wants something in life, they’ll go out and MAKE it happen.