A Personal Perspective

In Chapters 14 and 15, Krakauer answers those who would say that Christopher McCandless had a death wish by providing a compelling narrative of his own Alaskan adventure. Scan the two chapters and complete a Venn diagram to illustrate how McCandless and Krakauer are similar and different.

Just as Krakauer tells the stories of other adventurers in Chapters 8 and 9, he also tells his own story to shed some light on Christopher McCandless. Based on your understanding of their similarities and differences, what do you learn about McCandless from Krakauer’s own story?

In some ways, both Jon Krakauer and Christopher McCandless could be called modern-day transcendentalists. Review your notes from Unit 1; in what ways do these two men fit the description of the transcendentalists?

Krakauer’s account of climbing Devils Thumb is similar to a personal essay, in that he writes about a significant personal experience in which he learns about his own skills and inner strength. Although you might not have experienced anything as dramatic as a solo mountain climb, you have certainly had experiences that were significant to you. In preparation for Embedded Assessment One: Writing a Personal Essay, list those significant experiences: