

Into the Wild

Note: Definitions for the italic words/phrases are provided in the Glossary (p.4).

Task 1: Synopsis

Fill in the blanks with the words from the box.

<i>encountered</i> ¹	<i>fearless</i> ²	<i>privileged</i> ³	<i>promising</i> ⁴
<i>rebellious</i> ⁵	<i>renegade</i> ⁶	<i>wanderer</i> ⁷	



Freshly graduated from college with a 1._____ future ahead, 22 year-old Christopher McCandless instead walked out of his 2._____ life and into the wild in search of adventure. What happened to him on the way transformed this young 3._____ into an enduring symbol for countless people. Was Christopher McCandless a heroic adventurer or a naïve idealist, a 4._____ 1990s Thoreau or another lost American son, a 5._____ risk-taker or a *tragic*⁸ figure who *wrestled*⁹ with the *precarious*¹⁰ balance between man and nature?

McCandless' quest took him from the wheat fields of South Dakota to a 6._____ trip down the Colorado River to the *non-conformists*¹¹ *refuge*¹² of Slab City, California, and beyond. Along the way, he 7._____ a series of colorful characters at the very edges of American society who shaped his understanding of life and whose lives he, in turn, changed. In the end, he tested himself by heading alone into the wilds of the great North, where everything he had seen and learned and felt came to a head in ways he never could have expected.

Task 2: Listening

Watch the below clip from Into the Wild.

- Into the Wild DVD at Language Learning Oasis (OEM707): 45'35" - 48'37"

or

- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gAAedFvnPO>

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the clip.

Chris: Is there a library or bookstore around here where I can get books on 1._____ and preserving?

Wayne: Anything at all to do with hunting or preserving the meat, smoking it, whatever the hell it is, talk to Kevin over there. That's your man. Outdoorsman. What's your 2._____ with all that stuff?

Chris: I'm going to 3._____.

Wayne: Alaska, Alaska? Or city Alaska? Because they do have markets in Alaska. The city of Alaska. Not in Alaska. In the city of Alaska, they have markets.

Chris: No, man. Alaska, Alaska. I'm gonna be all the way out there, all the way out there. Just on my own. You know, no watch, no map, no 4._____, no nothing. No nothing. Just be out there. Just be out there in it. You know, big mountains, rivers, sky, game. Just be out there in it, you know? In the 5._____.

Wayne: In the wild. Just wild.

Chris: Yeah. Just...

Wayne: What are you doing when we're there? Now you're in the wild, what are we doing?

Chris: You're just 6. _____, man. You're just there, in that moment, in that special place and time.

Wayne: Yeah.

Chris: Maybe when I get back, I can write a book about my 7. _____.

Wayne: Why not?

Chris: You know, about getting out of this sick 8. _____.

Wayne: Society!

Chris: Society! Society, man!

Wayne: Society!

Chris: Society! Society!

Wayne: Society!

Chris: Society, you know! Society! 'Cause you know what I don't understand? I don't understand why people, why every person is so bad to each other so often. It doesn't make sense to me. 9. _____.

Wayne: What "people" we talking about?

Chris: You know, 10. _____, *hypocrites*¹⁴, politicians, *pricks*¹⁵.

Wayne: This is a 11. _____. It's a mistake to get too deep into all that kind of stuff. Alex, you're a hell of a young guy, a hell of a young guy. But I promise you this. You're a young guy! Can't be juggling 12. _____ and 13. _____ all the time! You've got to just kind of...

Waitress: Wayne, what are you talking about?

Wayne: What?

Waitress: I mean...

Wayne: I'm talking about blood and fire. We're talking about trying to juggle blood and fire.

Waitress: Who are you to be giving advice to anybody anyway?

Wayne: Who am I to be giving advice to anybody?

Waitress: Yes.

Wayne: Well, it's nice to meet you. My name is Mr. Happy.

Chris: Mr. Happy.

Wayne: And Mr. Happy sometimes gives advice.

Waitress: Alex, please.

Chris: I'm sorry.

Wayne: Sometimes Mr. Happy... Well, Mr. Happy is always happy. But you know when he's happiest?

Waitress: He's not always happy.

Chris: When is he happy?

Wayne: Are you really gonna say that to me? Come on, tell me about it.

Waitress: I am going to say that to you.

Waitress: Sit down before you hurt yourself.

Wayne: Now... One thing that you should try to keep your eye on is what happened in the late 1940s in Roswell.

Task 3: Vocabulary In Use

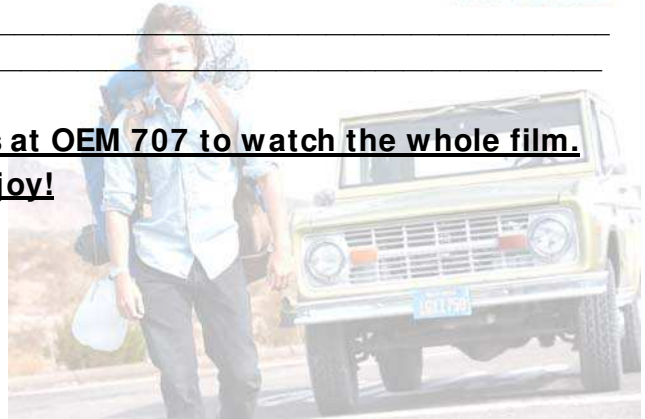
Learn at least 5 words/ phrases from the Glossary.

Go to online dictionaries (e.g. <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/>; <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/>; <http://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary>) to see example sentences. Then, write your own sentences below. You can make an appointment with our Teaching Assistant at the Language Learning Oasis (OEM707) to check your work.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

INTO THE WILD

Now, go to Language Learning Oasis at OEM 707 to watch the whole film.
Enjoy!



Glossary:

- ¹ **encountered:** (v) unexpectedly be faced with or experienced (something hostile or difficult)
- ² **fearless:** (adj) showing a lack of fear
- ³ **privileged:** (adj) having special rights, advantages, or immunities
- ⁴ **promising:** (adj) showing signs of future success
- ⁵ **rebellious:** (adj) Showing a desire to resist authority, control, or convention
- ⁶ **renegade:** (adj) having treacherously changed allegiance
- ⁷ **wanderer:** (n) a person who travels aimlessly; a traveller
- ⁸ **tragic:** (adj) causing or characterized by extreme distress or sorrow
- ⁹ **wrestled:** (v) took part in a fight, either as sport or in earnest, that involves grappling with one's opponent and trying to throw or force them to the ground
- ¹⁰ **precarious:** (adj) not securely held or in position; dangerously likely to fall or collapse
- ¹¹ **non-conformists:** (n) people who do not conform to prevailing ideas or practices in their behaviour or views
- ¹² **refuge:** (n) a place or situation providing safety or shelter
- ¹³ **spectrum:** (n) a complete range of opinions, ideas, situations etc, going from one extreme to its opposite
- ¹⁴ **hypocrites:** (n) people who say they have particular moral beliefs but behave in way that shows these are not sincere
- ¹⁵ **pricks:** (slang) stupid or contemptible men

Sources:

- <http://www.christophermccandless.info/>
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Into_the_Wild_\(film\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Into_the_Wild_(film))
- <http://www.intothewild-derfilm.de/>
- <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0758758/>
- http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/into_the_wild/
- <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/>
- <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/>