

ICHS Summer Reading Assignments
English/Social Studies Departments
Summer 2019

All students entering 9th and 10th grades: Respond to each of the questions below. The total length of all 5 responses should be 2-3 pages, typed and double spaced. Submit your response via email to your English teacher.

DUE DATE: FRIDAY, September 13, 2019

Read *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer

Paperback: 332 pages

Publisher: Anchor; Reprint edition (October 19, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385494785

ISBN-13: 978-0385494786

Free PDF Version: <https://tinyurl.com/yax52m22>

Available for purchase: <https://tinyurl.com/y6nhc7y7>

Discussion Questions for *Into Thin Air*:

- 1. Jon Krakauer describes any attempt to climb Mt. Everest as “an intrinsically irrational act”? Do you agree with this statement? Why? Why not? Alternately, what are some legitimate reasons for attempting such a feat?**
- 2. Each year, clients pay large sums of money for the chance to climb to the top of Mount Everest. Krakauer points out that many of them are ill-suited for the expeditions due to lack of relevant climbing experience. What role did money (and the subsequent sense of entitlement that goes along with it) play in the events that unfolded on Everest? 7. Why do you think neither Hall nor Fischer ever stressed a firm turn-around time for their teams**
- 3. As a journalist, Krakauer explains that he feels he is required to tell the story as he observed it, even if it means hurting people who are involved. Is this a responsible approach? Is Krakauer fair to his Subjects?**
- 4. What does *Into Thin Air* suggest about the importance of leadership and teamwork in comparison to individual achievement?**
- 5. Discuss the recent tragedies on Mt. Everest. Did Krakauer’s book Foreshadow these events? What do you think are the reasons are for these most recent deaths on Mt. Everest?**

ICHS Summer Reading Assignments
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All students entering 11th and 12th grades: Respond to each of the questions below. The total length of all 8 responses should be 4-5 pages, typed and double spaced. Submit your response to your English teacher via email.

DUE DATE: FRIDAY, September 13, 2019

Read *Hiroshima* by John Hersey

Paperback: 124 pages

Publisher: www.bnpublishing.com (January 22, 2019)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1684116880

ISBN-13: 978-168411688

<https://tinyurl.com/y22oge87>

Discussion Questions for *Hiroshima*

1. How would you describe Hersey's tone of voice in telling the stories of the six survivors?
2. Of the six survivors interviewed by Hersey, who seemed to deal with the tragedy the best for you? Who had the hardest time? What did they have in common? How were they different?
3. Hersey's wrote about how "a surprising number of the people of Hiroshima remained more or less indifferent about the ethics of the bomb." Why do you think that was? Should they have been angrier about it? What do you think the rest of the world thought about it as an ethical issue?
4. The last part of the book, The Aftermath, was added almost 40 years later. How did knowing the fates of our six people change your perception on the bombing? Does it make the book better?
5. Do you think dropping the bombs was justifiable? Do you think if the Japanese had had the same capabilities, they would have dropped it on America or someone else?
6. Do you think there should be some things that are off limits in a war? Do you think the world could agree on those things?
7. What do you think Hersey's purpose was in writing this book? In what ways, if any, did he interject his own feelings into this book?
8. What lessons could/should today's world leaders learn from this story? How do you think these survivors would react to the way that nuclear weapons today are used as tools for political leverage?