

Tolstoy Research

1. Go to my website, under the AP III tab and download the “tolstoyshorts” file (Under “Leo Tolstoy's Three Questions (February 7)”). Open the file and only read the first story, *The Three Questions*. Based on the story, what kind of man do you think its author, Leo Tolstoy was? What was his philosophy, what were his beliefs, etc.? Use examples from the story to support your claim. (1 paragraph 8-10 sentence minimum answer)

2. Using you iPad to do research, learn about Tolstoy and complete the questions/activities below in order to get ready to read about Chris McCandless in *Into the Wild*.

“Long captivated by the writing of Leo Tolstoy, McCandless particularly admired how the great novelist had forsaken a life of wealth and privilege to wander among the destitute.” —Krakauer, Author’s Note

- Create a timeline of Tolstoy’s life that shows how he went from wealth to voluntary poverty. Also include his major novels/works.

“In college McCandless began emulating Tolstoy’s asceticism and moral rigor to a degree that first astonished, and then alarmed, those who were close to him.” —Krakauer, Author’s Note

- What is asceticism?
- In your own words, describe Tolstoy’s moral rigor: what did he believe, how did he put these beliefs into practice, etc.? Cite the sources that helped you reach your conclusions.

“When the boy headed off into the Alaska bush, he entertained no illusions that he was trekking into a land of milk and honey; peril, adversity, and Tolstoyan renunciation were precisely what he was seeking. And that is what he found in abundance.” —Krakauer, Author’s Note

- Based on what you’ve read about Tolstoy and knowing that Chris McCandless wanted to emulate him, how would you characterize Chris? What do you think he wanted from his trip to Alaska? Use evidence to support your claim and cite the source the evidence came from. (1 paragraph, 8-10 sentence minimum)
- Use the venn diagram to compare and contrast Tolstoy and the Transcendentalists.