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Into The Wild Essay

Chris McCandless was a complicated person; he was admirable and a Reckless idiot. I see him as a brave person who pursued his ideals fearlessly. People probably saw McCandless as reckless and not prepared, leading him to his death. But in reality, McCandless was both courageous and careful. His desire to leave society and live a simple and meaningful life was admirable, but his lack of preparation and refusal to seek help contributed to his death. By reading about his journey, beliefs, and choices, we can admire his adventurous spirit while seeing the dangers of his recklessness.

One reason I admire McCandless is because he had the courage to live by his own rules and not let people tell him how to live his life. He wasn't afraid to leave behind everything that he had and leave behind society in order to find his meaning in life in the wilderness. In chapter 11, his father, Walt, described how Chris was always strong-willed and independent, saying, "Chris was fearless even when he was little" (Krakauer, Page 109). This determination stayed with him as he grew up. Unlike many who only dream of adventure, Chris took his chance. He believed in a simple, meaningful, and quiet life; he wanted to be free from the pressures of money and the status of the world, and he had the courage to pursue his very own vision.

However, McCandless also made reckless choices that put him in danger. He entered the Alaskan wilderness without enough supplies, proper training, or a plan for his survival. Krakauer describes how Chris carried a ten-pound bag of rice, a rifle, and a field guide to edible plants, but

he did not bring a map or a compass (Krakauer, page 162). The lack of preparation was risky and irresponsible. He seemed to believe that his determination would be enough to survive in the Alaskan wilderness. To him, refusing to take basic safety precautions led him to starvation and his death. This shows how his confidence causes him to overlook that he should have been careful in planning his survival.

Another example of his recklessness was when he refused to call out for help when he was struggling. In chapter 17, Krakauer reveals that McCandless tried to leave the wilderness but was stopped by the Teklanika River (Krakauer, page 173). If he had a map, he would have probably been aware of the cabin that could have aided his leave. As days passed, his strength faded, leaving him weak to find another way out. His pride and Determination prevented him from seeking other solutions, sealing his fate. This shows his bravery but also shows how reckless and stubborn he was.

Despite his faults, McCandless's story continues to inspire others. He believed in living life to the fullest and in finding happiness in nature rather than having wealth. In his journal, he wrote, "Happiness is only real when shared"(Krakauer, page 189), which suggests that he may have been considering his isolation before he died. His journal serves as a personal reminder that following dreams requires both passion and caution. Pursuing adventure is meaningful, but being prepared is essential.

In the end, McCandless was a guy managed by both being admirable and being a reckless idiot. His courage and determination were amazing, but his lack of preparation was the reason he did not make it back from the Alaskan wilderness. His story highlights where the line is between bravery and recklessness, reminding us that passion alone is not enough to make it. While his journey was admirable, it also serves as a story that tells us about the importance of preparation

and lack of pride. His outcome encourages us to chase our dreams fearlessly while understanding the importance of preparation and not being reckless while chasing your dreams.