Joe Skimmons

2.13.17

Sec 303

Exercise 2.2

Exhibit: Chris McCandless Picture

Does our view on the beauty of wilderness come from our immersion in it, or our romanticism of it from afar? In the case of Christopher McCandless, who perished in Alaska after spending time in the wilderness and living as simply as possible the answer is not so clear. If he had decided to remain in his normal life and not escaped into the wild, he would probably still be alive today. This begs the question, was the reward of living in the wilderness worthwhile? Is immersion that much better than simply sutdying it from afar?

1a. The tone of “A Fable for Tomrrow” is haunting and terrifying, as is its subject matter, although it is unrealistic. However, “obligation to Endure” and “Needless Havoc” are more factual and warning of Human behavior.

1b. Carson’s intellectual project is to attack the pollution and poisons that humans are inflicting on nature, to hopefully get people to side with her and create change.

1c. Carson sees humans relationship with nature as abusive, especially when describing the use of pesticides and how they “poison all life with which they come in contact with (Carson).

2. While Thoreau’s use of “wildness” as opposed to “wilderness” puts forward his idea of the wild to be unbound and savage in nature. He believes that humans need the wild, physically and spiritually, but society suppresses it and engulfs our lives. Cronon, however, believes that we should not consider society and the wilderness to be that distant.