Into the Wild: Part 3

**Chapter 2: The Stampede Trail (p 9)**

Title explanation: This road was blazed by miner Earl Pilgrim in order to bring large mining trucks and eventually 3 junked buses. This appears to be the trail that Chris takes because it is already cleared and is easy to pass.

**Opening quote explained:** The wild is a dark and mysterious place. I feel so alone here and as if the wild is laughing in the face of my existence. It is cold and lonely and I am not sure if I can survive in this desolate place. The wild is more savage then I even thought it could be.

Chapter Summary: This chapter begins by describing why Chris took the Stamped Trail on his journey into the wilderness of Alaska. It elaborates on how the buses arrived on the site where Chris lived for many months and elaborates on Chris’s SOS note. McCandless appears to have been starving to death and was eventually found dead in the bus by hunters a few weeks too late. This chapter has a very “factual” tone and sets up the novel to describe and explain how Chris came to be in this dangerous and ultimately life threatening position.

3 important quotes explained:

Quote 1: “The third bus was left about half way out the trail…” (p10)

This quote is important because it explains to the reader how this strange “magic bus” got into the middle of the wild.

Quote 2: “The authorities didn’t know who he was, where he was from, or why he was there?

This quote explains that when Chris was found dead, it was initially impossible to identify who he was. Clearly he did not tell anyone where he was going.

Passage to read: Page 10

“Neither of them had been in the bus…it was hard to be absolutely sure.”

Vocab words:

Contumacious (p11) = willfully disobedient to authority

A person that chooses to act against the authority – “The Alaskans were particularly contumacious for driving motor vehicles where they are not supposed to be driven.”

TPQ – Was Chris McCandless just unlucky or was he unprepared for his daring journey into the wild?

Or

Why would Chris go into the wild without telling anyone where he was going?