

Dear Reader,

I like *Into the Wild* so far. I watched the movie when I was about eight years old, so I am familiar with the story. The main character and I have a lot in common; we think the same. I also do not believe in materialism and hate the mentality of the bourgeoisie. I love nature and I am a full supporter of reverting to a hunter gatherer or simple, agricultural society (my bible is Ishmael and I follow the teachings of Buddha). I feel like we need to reconnect with life and the present moment, and the perfect way to do that is to release ourselves from the hands of useless, "innovation" and the constructs of society. People have survived for millions of years in tribes/villages without any or most of what Alex was trying to escape from and they seem to be much happier than we are, even when living in "harsher", "savage-like" situations. Additionally, Alex came from a similar background as me. We both come from a "nice" family in an upper middle class neighborhood. Considering his parents profession, I assume he is more upper and I am more middle, but nevertheless we're suburb kids with a lot of access to books and knowledge. Something that separates us is that, although we both hate capitalism, he thinks that the answer is to be individualistic and abandon everything. My beliefs fall more in line with Che Guevara's and collectivism. I think that we should come together, rely on each other, and work as one to create something better. Together we are stronger, because Alex does not believe this, he loses everyone and dies a lonely and painful death. I wouldn't leave society in such a ripe age. At 23 years old you have lots of youth and strength, things you could use to make a difference.

I learn most about Alex from other people's descriptions of him. All the people he interacted with talked about how smart he was and all the heated rants he went on about society. I don't think I learn much about him otherwise. His highlighted passages in his books are very insightful because we don't hear his thoughts, and every now and then he has a journal entry/letter that is in the book, but besides that he is left a mystery. This is why I chose to do a "He is" poem instead of an "I am poem." Alex became a debate topic, a story from the people he met, and sort of lost his human complexity along the way. He is simplified to passer-byers comments and small interactions, so I want my poem to reflect that.

Sincerely,  
Iza