*Into the Wild* Vocabulary Definitions

**Chapters 1-3**

**congenial** (5) - friendly **escarpments** (10) - a steep slope

**antimony** (10) - a metallic element **anomaly** (11) - glitch, inconsistency

**contumacious** (11) - rebellious **visage** (16) - face

**amiable** (16) - good-natured **convivial** (18) - sociable

**plebeian** (18) - crude, common **mien** (18) - appearance

**onerous** (22) - troublesome

**Chapters 4-5**

**egress** (28) - going out **indolently** (32) – lazy, inactive

**saline** (32) - salty **sere** (32) – withered, dry

**bourgeois** (39) – middle class **lumpen** (39) – displaced people, misfits of society

**itinerant** (43) - traveling **primordial** (44) – primal, basic form of development

**fatuous** (44) – satisfied and stupid **sedentary** (44) – sitting, remaining in one

 area

**Tolstoy** (29) – Russian author and  **Thoreau** (29) – American writer, poet, and

non-violence, and finding personal freedom.

happiness from within.

**Chapters 6-7**

**hegira** (48) - flight **creosote** (48) – an oily liquid

**desiccated** (49) – dried **phantasmal** (49) - ghostly **arroyo** (49) – gorge

**indigent** (50) – poor **destitute** (51) - poor **serape** (51) – poncho

**harangues** (51) – sermon **fulminate** (52) – verbal attack

**endemic** (52) – widespread **unalloyed** (55) - pure **unbidden** (63) – not asked

**Chapters 10-11**

**mercurial** (105) - quick and changeable **wanderlust** (108) -a strong impulse to travel

**incorrigible** (115) -uncontrollable,

incapable of being reformed

**Chapters 12-16**

**monomania** (120) - obsessed with one idea **sanctimonious** (122) - self-righteous

**choler** (122) - anger **sullen** (123) - brooding, angry

**idiosyncratic** (123) - distinctive, individual **castigated** (123) - punish

**extemporaneous** (124) - impromptu **gloaming** (161) - dusk

**Rubicon** (163) - point of no return **aesthetic** (163) - appreciates beauty in nature

**perambulation** (164) - patrol **taiga** (164) - subarctic forest

**reverie** (164) - dream **obliquely** (123) - indirectly

**Chapter 17**

### ford (174) – a shallow place to cross a river miasma (175) - cloud

### malevolent (176) – mean massif (176) – connected mountains

### ungulate (178) – hoofed animals moldering (178) – rotting

**scabbard** (178) – cover **maxillae** (179) – jawbones

**hauteur** (180) – arrogance **metis** (180) – people of Indian and French-Canadian

**descent sobriquet** (181) – humorous nickname **ruminations** (183) – reflection

**modicum** (184) – small amount **feckless** (184) – incompetent

**posited** (184) – put forward as truth **sojourn** (179) - break

**existential** (184) – creating meaning through experience because life has no inherent meaning; emphasizes personal freedom and responsibility.

**Chapter 18 – Epilogue**

**munificence** (188) - bounty **eloquence** (189) - expressive speech

**precipitous** (190) - abrupt **decumbent** (192) - growing along the ground

**emetic** (192) - causes vomiting **insidiously** (194) - casing harm in a sneaky way

**moniker** (198) - name **conflagration** (198) -fire

**beatific** (199) - saintly