Task

Read Extract B. It is taken from Chapter 11 of *Into the Wild*. In it, Jon Krakauer describes Chris McCandless’ relationship with his sister, Carine.

1) Answer the following questions to identify the EXPLICIT meaning of the text:

a) Which instrument was Chris McCandless talented with?

b) What two reasons are given for Chris McCandless quitting the symphony?

c) What did Chris and Carine spend hours doing?

d) What would Chris and Carine do as they walked down the street together?

2) Answer the following questions to identify the IMPLICIT meaning of the text:

a) Which detail in the text suggest that Chris McCandless disliked authority?

b) Carine says that she ‘wanted to be like Chris’. What does this suggest about their relationship?

c) Carine says that there was ‘no way he was going to sit behind his damn sister’. What does this suggest about Chris’s character?

d) Carine says that Chris would ‘hold my hand when we walked down the street’. What does this suggest about Chris and Carine’s relationship?

3) Extended response:

What do you learn about Carine and Chris’s relationship from Chapter 11 (page 110)?

EXTRACT B - *Into the Wild*, Pg. 103-104

A gifted French-horn player, as a teen he was a member of the American University Symphony but quit, according to Walt, after objecting to rules imposed by a high school band leader. Carine recalls that there was more to it than that: “He quit playing partly because he didn’t like being told what to do but also because of me. I wanted to be like Chris, so I started to play French horn, too. And it turned out to be the one thing I was better at than he was. When I was a freshman and he was a senior, I made first chair in the senior band, and there was no way he was going to sit behind his damn sister.”

Their musical rivalry seems not to have damaged the relationship between Chris and Carine, however. They’d been best friends from an early age, spending hours together building forts out of cushions and blankets in their Annandale living room. “He was always really nice to me,” Carine says, “and extremely protective. He’d hold my hand when we walked down the street. When he was in junior high and I was still in grade school, he got out earlier than me, but he’d hang out at his friend Brian Paskowitz’s house so we could walk home together.”