Name: Date:

(Epigram by Jose Ortega y Gasset)

- a. What is Krakauer's purpose in using this quote?
- b. What do you think the tragedy in the civilized world is that he refers to?
- c. How do you think the book informs this tragedy?

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

Introduction

d. After reading the introduction, why do <i>you</i> think we're reading this book?

Name:	Date:
1411101	

(Chapter One) a) What were the physical and mental effects on Krakauer of the high altitude by the time he reached the summit?		
reached the summit? b) Considering these affects, what assessment would you make of Krakauer's reliability as a narrato particular in the Death Zone (above 25,000 feet)?		
Into Thin Air – Discussion Questions 4		
(Chapter Two) a) How did Dick Bass' ascent of Everest in 1985 change climbers' perceptions of ascents on Everest? b) What did the Nepalese government do as a result of these changes? c) Who were the first men to ascend Everest and what event did this correspond with? d) What ascent of Everest was particularly important to Krakauer personally and why? e) Why did Krakauer agree to climb Everest when he felt such disdain for what the climb had become?		

Name: Date:

Make a list of at least 5 experiences in your life that may not have turned out the way you expected them to: 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. Is it always possible for our expectations to become reality? Why or why not?

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

(Chapter Three) a) What was Rob Hall's interaction with Sir Edmund Hillary?
b) What had Hall's climbing accomplishments been prior to founding his company? c) Why did Hall shift from his personal expeditions to founding an expedition company?
Lut. This die Discussion O satisfact
Into Thin Air – Discussion Questions 6
(Chapter Four) a) What have been the changes in the Sherpa culture since their first involvement in
mountaineering? b) How have outsiders both honored and abused Sherpas as the various cultures have interacted?

Name: Date:

Make a list of at least 5 people in that you would want to climb with on a trip up Mount Everest. 1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
What would you have done had you realized that people in your group were still far behind?

Name:	Date:
1411101	

(Chapter Five) a) How did Rob Hall and Scott Fischer differ in terms of character? b) What bothered Fischer about his reputation as a climber? How and why had this changed before the climb in 1996?
c) Why had Fischer's and Hall's companies come in conflict with one another over Jon Krakauer?
Into Thin Air - Discussion Questions 8
(Chapter Six) a) What arrangements had the various expeditions made to pass through the Khumbu Icefall? b) What sort of weaknesses did Krakauer note in the participants of Hall's expedition? c) How had the relationship between Krakauer and his wife Linda changed as a result of his climbing?

Name: Date:

Make a list of at least 5 things you want to achieve by the time you are 50.
2.
3.
4.
5.
Do you think it's a positive thing to have very high standards and goals for one's self? Why or why not?

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

(Chapter Seven) a) What had Maurice Wilson's plan been to ascend Everest in 1933 and how did it turn out? b) When a did Kurlaman are the stream and wild diluthon as Everest in 1996 and other?	
b) Whom did Krakauer see as the strongest guided climber on Everest in 1996 and why? c) Which of the expeditions on Everest in 1996 seemed least capable and why?	
Into Thin Air - Discussion Questions 10	
(Chapter Eight) a) How and did Krakauer's attitude about encountering dead climbers rapidly change? b) How did Scott Fischer and Ingrid Hunt share in their collective responsibility for Ngawang Topche's eventual death? c) How and where does Krakauer show his disdain for Sandy Hill Pittman?	

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

Describe an idol you have in your life right now. Why do you idolize this person? What do you hop to achieve by idolizing this person?	
to achieve by Idonzing this person:	
Do you think it's healthy to idolize someone? Why or why not?	

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

(Chapter Nine) a) How had Doug Hansen's physical condition deteriorated and why? b) What seemed to be the underlying cause(s) for the bickering among Rob Hall the Taiwanese, and South African teams over fixing ropes up the Lhotse face? c) Describe the Sherpa beliefs about Everest, sex, and nature in general?
Into Thin Air - Discussion Questions 12
(Chapter Ten) a) What does Krakauer reveal in this chapter about his role as a writer that goes well beyond what Outside magazine had hired him to do? b) How does Krakauer's attitude toward Beck Weathers change and why? c) How has Krakauer's physical condition deteriorated by the time of his return to Base Camp?

Name:	Date:

Do you consider yourself to be a risk taker?	
Is taking risks a necessary part of life? Why or why not?	

Name: Date:

(Chapter Eleven) a) What was the source of the evolving friction between Scott Fischer and Anatoli Boukreev? b) How had Reinhold Messner's ascents on Everest in the late 1970's and early 1980's substantially altered elite climbers' views about summiting the mountain? c) What factors make a summit bid on May 10, 1996 increasingly problematic at this point?
Into Thin Air - Discussion Questions 14
(Chapter Twelve) a) What factors had caused Lopsang Jangbu Sherpa to push himself to exhaustion both below and above Camp Four? b) As Krakauer waited in the night at Camp Four for his summit bid, what were his thoughts about his relationship both to other members of his own expedition, as well to others who would make summit bids the next day? c) What does Krakauer write is being done about the approximately 1,000 discarded oxygen canisters that littered Camp Four?

Name: Date:

Describe a culture that fascinates you. It can be from the book or from anywhere you like.
Is cultural identity something that's important to preserve? Why or why not?

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

(Chapter Thirteen)
a) What were some of the factors that lead to the bottlenecks between Camp 4 and the summit?
b) Why was Krakauer critical of Boukreev in this section of the climb?
c) Describe Krakauer's feelings about his climb both before and at the moment of his summit.
<i>Into Thin Air</i> – Discussion Questions 16
·
(Chapter Fourteen)
a) What transpired at the South Summit amongst Krakauer, Andy Harris, and Mike Groom that
Krakauer later feels guilty for?
b) What mistakes did Beck Weathers make that he would later regret?
c) What mistake did Krakauer make with Beck Weathers that he too would later regret?

Name: Date:

Make a list of at least 5 things that you would need to bring on a hiking trip to feel comfortable.
2.
3.
4.
5.
Do you think it's reasonable for climbers to expect luxuries when on this kind of trip? Why or why not?

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

(Chapter Fifteen) a) What logistical error had Fischer made with his team that impacted their ascent on the summit
day?
b) What is Krakauer's critique of Boukreev on the summit day?
c) What heroic efforts did Neil Biedelman, Stuart Hutchinson, and Anatoli Boukreev make to save
the climbers in the huddle?
<i>Into Thin Air</i> – Discussion Questions 18
(Chapter Sixteen)
a) What factors do you think lead Krakauer to misidentify Martin Adams as "Andy Harris"?

Name:	Date:
tarre.	Date.

Which climbing guide would you rather follow - Hall or Fischer? Do you think Fischer should be leading teams up the mountain? Why or why not?

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

(Chapter Seventeen)	_
a) What does Krakauer suggest is the likely scenario with Rob Hall, Doug Hansen, and Andy Harris	;?
b) Which of the deaths of the two leaders strikes you as most tragic and why?	
c) What became of the rescue efforts to save the two leaders?	
	_
	_
	_
	_
	_
Into Thin Air - Discussion Questions 20	
(Chapter Eighteen) a) What do you think of the Japanese climbers' claims that above 8,000 meters is not a "place for morality"? Do you see their actions as justifiable?	
	_
	_
	_
	_
	_
	_

Name: Date:

Define the idea of taking responsibility for others. What does this mean? What does it entail?		
Should climbers look out for themselves or for others when on the mountain? Why?		

(Chapter Nineteen) a) What happened to Rob Hall's team in the absence of leadership? b) What did the other expeditions do to assist in aiding the climbers in trouble? c) In the midst of the ongoing disaster, how did the climbers handle their grief and shock?				
Into Thin Air – Discussion Questions 22 (Chapter Twenty) a) How did Beck Weathers' injuries compare to Makalu Gau's? b) What was amazing to Krakauer above Weathers' descent? c) What was so unusual and difficult about Weathers and Gau's rescue?				

Name:	Date:

Give one reason that you believe this tragedy occurred:		
Why did you choose this reason above all the rest?		

Name: Date:

(Chapter Twenty-One) a) In retrospect, whose deaths did Krakauer feel most responsible for?
b) What does Krakauer see as the causes of the disaster? c) Why does Krakauer thinks such tragedies are likely to happen again?
Into Thin Air - Discussion Questions 24
(Epilogue) a) Do you think Lisa Fischer-Luckenbach makes some apt points about Krakauer? b) Considering some of the abuse of Sherpa culture described in the book and the letter by the Sherpa in the epilogue, what do you think Westerners should or should not be doing in Nepal? c) Do you think the reaction to Sandy Hill Pittman was warranted? Why or why not?

Name:	Date:

Afterwards...

	a.	Now, having read the book, why do you think we read it?
-		