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Final written essay

- If my life was a story, what would be my quest, what is my driven hope? Could the act of survival push me further away from my dreams? (inspired by *Winter's Bone* and *Into the Wild*)

After reading *Winter's Bone* and watching the film *Into the wild* I began to ask myself some questions about my own life. In "Winters Bone" Ree was faced with some hard decisions in order to keep her family together, her bravery and courage inspired me as a reader to think about my own life's journey and to fight hard for what I truly believe in. Although Ree made a decision that was best for her family, she often wondered what would happen if she had chosen other routes. This also had me thinking, could the act of survival push you away from your dreams or bring you closer to them? It all depends, there are some people that can not afford to give up everything and go after their dreams because there is just too much at stake. On the other hand Alex superstamp (in the film "Into the Wild") threw away everything for what he desired, he left it all behind basically. He believed his driven hope was to go on a journey into the wilderness and live in solitude, I even ask myself would I be brave enough to chuck everything and book it.

I admire both characters in both the film and novel, Ree was so determined to save her home and keep her family together that she went through drastic measures to do so. Alex believe in his goal so much that he just pick up and left. His previous life was one most people would be satisfied with, a great family, education and a bright looking future but for Alex Supertramp, that wasn't what satisfied him. These stories reached me mentally, I began to do a lot of thinking about my aspirations and dreams. Passion is a beautiful thing especially when it's executed by driven hope. I began wondering what my story would be and could my reality deter some of my dreams.

If my life was a story, it would start off with an ambitious young lady searching for who she really is. She knows what fulfills her, but what she don't know is where to begin her path. Her passion is for things to be just the way she see's it. Which makes me wonder if this is the way that Alex felt, when he started his journey, maybe he didn't know exactly how to start it but he was so passionate about it that he just had to take off and wing it. Yes he could have been more prepared but that is what was so suspenseful about his story, wondering what his journey would bring him next, and if you really think about it Ree didn't have a plan either, all she knew is somehow she was going to find her father. Each morning for a week she would get up with a new found idea on how she would go about things, and we all wondered what her journey would bring her as well.

I guess that's the beauty of passion, to go for what it is you desire, despite your disadvantages. Both stories brought me lessons and hope. Hope to go after what I desire no matter how big or how small. To have a quest you have to start somewhere, and to have a story your quest must take you somewhere.