

ENGLISH TEXT SUMMARY NOTES
“Into Thin Air”

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AREA 1:

READING AND RESPONDING

Chapter 1

AUTHOR NOTES

Jon Krakauer is a journalist who is himself an avid climber, though he would not consider himself to be a professional climber at all. He is married and lives in Seattle with his wife. Jon was 42 when he embarked on the Everest expedition in 1996.

Jon went to Everest to write an article on the growing commercialism of Everest and he did write that article for *Outside* magazine, but he extended the manuscript to become the narrative *Into Thin Air* to answer his own feelings of survivor's guilt as well as the other criticism he received following the tragedy. The disaster generated a lot of media attention across the world in 1996 and Krakauer's narrative has been widely read as a first hand account of the tragedy. His article and narrative have sparked responses from other people who were on the trip as well.

Chapter 2

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The historical context of the narrative is the modern era: late twentieth century. The advances in climbing materials available are much advanced in the late twentieth century on those used in previous periods, as Krakauer notes. The narrator does provide background information on a range of different eras and people who have attempted to climb the mountain under extremely diverse conditions.

The text is set in 1996, twelve years ago and as such does not need elaborate explanation of views and values, technologies or paradigmatic perspectives.

SAMPLE