

9th and 10th grade AP Summer Reading Assignments

This summer we will be reading My Antonia and O' Pioneers by Willa Cather.

Throughout the summer you will be working on an essay that we will complete in class that incorporates each of your summer assignments. You will be required to respond via e-mail to certain questions regarding your reading. Your responses will be graded and will serve as the basis for each in-class essay over your summer assignment. All written responses will be delivered to me via e-mail at lelaine.smith@yahoo.com no later than 11:59pm. All written responses must be in a Word document, 12 point font, Times New Roman, double spaced, 1" margins around and named "LAST NAME_assignment_1.doc (.docx or .rtf). Also, know your word processing system; if you are using Microsoft works or notepad, you must save your document as an .rtf file in order for me to access your work. Failure to do so will result in a zero.

- To complete some assignments (and submit them) you will need access to the internet.

Due June 5th – After reading half of My Antonia:

- Write a short answer (at least 2 paragraphs) to the following questions:
 1. How is Antonia's family adapting to the changes in their environment?
What effect do the changes have on the characters emotionally? Why?
 2. What predictions can you make about possible endings for the characters?

Due June 19th – After you finish reading My Antonia

- Using the internet, write a brief paper (1-2 pages) discussing the following two questions:

- 1) What effect do Willa Cather's personal experiences have on the development of her characters?
- 2) What three major historical events occurred during the time period Willa Cather sets her novels in and how do these events affect the characters in the book?

Due July 3rd – After reading the first half of the book O Pioneers:

- Write a short answer (at least 2 paragraphs) for the following questions:
 1. What similarities and/or differences in the characters have you noticed so far between these characters and the main characters in My Antonia?
 2. How are the characters adapting to the changes in their environment? What effect do the changes have on them emotionally? Why?

Due July 17th – After you finish reading O Pioneers:

- Compare and contrast the main characters in a 1-2 page paper answering the following question:
 1. What similarities and/or differences are there between the main characters now that you have finished reading both books? Are they the same as what you first thought or different? Are there more or less similarities and/or differences?
 3. How would a stronger relationship with God change or help the situations and characters in the book?

Due July 31st – Using the internet locate 2 historical events that occurred during the time periods each book was set (you should have a total of 4 events). Send me an explanation of each event and answer the following question for each event how did these events influence the authors writing?

Due the first day of school – Bring your original responses and your “work’s cited”.

Notes:

- .edu and .org are the best sites to use.
- Wikipedia is not an acceptable resource.
- Visit the OWL (online writing lab) <http://owl.english.purdue.edu> for help with your writing and also on how to do a works cited in MLA format.
- **Plagiarism will not be tolerated.**
- If you have any questions at anytime during the summer let me know as soon as possible so that I can help you before it becomes a problem.