**Honors English I Summer Reading**

As your summer reading assignment, you will be reading *My Antonia*, marking your text, and completing the corresponding assignments. Please follow the directions carefully:

**Annotation/text marking** – As you read, highlight or underline passages and words that are important to character development. Mark and reflect on passages you find that deal with **the land** and the characters’ interactions with it. Also mark passages that pertain to the different **immigrants and their cultures and struggles in America**. Additionally, make marginal notes about characters, important events and dialogue, questions, and opinions you have, etc.

**\*Note:** a book with only highlighting or underlining—no marginal notes—will receive no higher than a 50%.

**Assignments** – There are **three** assignments you must complete:

1. Research about your own ancestors
2. Character study
3. Journal

**\*\*Accountability\*\*** – The marked text and assignments are due the second day of school, when you have a quiz over the book. The text will be a quiz grade, and the three assignments together will be a test grade. You will also be tested over the material. I must warn you not to “work together” on this assignment; having identical or very similar answers (such as same wording) on anything is considered cheating and will be handled accordingly.

**\*Contacting me:** My email address is **Lknezek@firstdallas.org**. Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. I will respond as quickly as I can.

***My Antonia* Summer Reading Assignments**

**I. Answer the following questions about your ancestors. You will most likely have to phone, visit, or otherwise contact grandparents or great-grandparents. If none of them are living, you may ask your parents or other relatives, or do some research of your own. Answer these on another piece of paper.**

1. Who was the first person on your mother’s side to come to the United States?

When, how, and why?

2. Are there any interesting stories behind that voyage?

3. Where did that person and his/her family settle?

4. Who was the first person on your father’s side to come to the United States?

When, how, and why?

5. Are there any interesting stories behind that voyage?

6. Where did that person and his/her family settle?

7. Are there cultural traditions from these ancestors that your family still observes today?

8. Is there any other interesting information related to your family’s ancestors and their cultural/ethnic background?

**II. Choose one of the following characters or pairs of characters to study. Make a list of the following details on a piece of paper. Then include at least 2 significant quotations for each category. You will present your character study to the class verbally and turn in the written list.**

1. Physical characteristics/ethnicity

2. Notable words and actions

3. Relation to other characters

4. Other distinguishing characteristics

**Choices (References to the characters in the book are noted in parentheses by book [Roman numeral] and number [chapter]):**

-Jim and Antonia as pioneer children (I:1,7,11,16,17)

-Otto and Jake, the cowboys (I:1,11,15,18; II:1)

-Ole Benson and Crazy Mary (II:4; III:4)

-Wycliff Cutter (II:11, 15; V:2)

-Mr. Shimerda (I:1,3,6,10,12,13,14,17)

-Mrs. Shimerda and Ambrosch (I:1,13,16,18)

- Country girls in the city: Tiny Soderball and Lena Lingard (II:5,7,12; III:2,4; IV:1,3)

-Blind d’Arnault (II:7)

-The Harlings (II:2,6,10)

-Gaston Cleric (III:1,4; IV:4)

-Larry Donovan (II:12; IV:2,3)

**III. Journal. Write a 200-250 word journal in response to one of these prompts. Include at least 3 quotations from the book; use your annotations to help you. This journal should be typed, double-spaced, and 12-pt. font.**

**Choose 1 of these prompts:**

A. Cather includes numerous passages that describe the land, as a way to portray the Midwest and show the struggles of the American (especially immigrant) pioneers. In your journal, describe how Cather portrays the land using at least 3 significant quotes. Analyze the quotes and explain what Cather reveals about the environment in which the pioneers live and the struggles they have to endure because of the land. How do the land and its struggles make the characters who they are?

B. Throughout the novel, Cather depicts the unique cultures and struggles of the different immigrants of the American Midwest. How does she characterize these various immigrants? What is important to them, and what struggles do they experience being in such a new environment? How do their experiences compare to Jim’s and his grandparents’, and how do non-immigrant Americans treat the immigrants? What might this treatment reveal about American society? Use at least 3 significant quotes to support your response.