

**Summer Reading 2010  
Rising Sophomore Honors**

***Our Town*** (drama) – Thornton Wilder  
***My Antonia*** – Willa Cather

**Assignment #1: *Our Town***

Based on her return trip to earth, write a 200 word letter to friends and/or family in the persona of Emily Webb. What advice would she offer? What did she notice? What made her happy and sad at the same time? (Please type the letter)

**Assignment #2 *My Antonia***

Jim, the young protagonist of the story, experiences life on the plains of Nebraska like we never will. Write 10 journal entries from Jim's perspective. Do not write plot summaries. Feel free to create your own topics, or use the following suggestions.

1. What do you like? Dislike? Find comfortable? Find irritating? Why?
2. Comment on other characters. Describe them in physical, mental, and emotional terms. Do any of the characters seem to change?
3. Describe the relationship between you and the other characters.
4. Describe the differences between the social classes in the story.
5. Do you wish things would have turned out differently for you and Antonia?
6. Describe your hopes, fears, and/or dreams for the future.
7. How does religion or spirituality play a role in the characters' lives?
8. Explain what the characters seem to value.
9. Describe your attitude toward life. Are you optimistic or pessimistic? Explain.
10. If you could change anything about life, what would it be?
11. Describe the daily hardships of life on the Nebraska plains.
12. Describe any acts of pride the Shimerdas exhibit.
13. How do you feel after killing the snake? Explain what happened...

➤ Diary Format:

**Date:**

**Title of Entry:**

**Pages Covered:**

The selections need to be read in their entirety and the assignments completed by Wednesday, August 18. In addition, we will spend about two days discussing the novels before being tested on the material.

Please email if you have any questions: [Anordhorn@gracebc.org](mailto:Anordhorn@gracebc.org)