

Summer Reading 2009  
Rising Sophomore Honors

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

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*

While reading the selection, please record 10 journal entries of at least ½ page each (handwritten).

**Date:**                      **Title of Entry:**                      **Pages Covered:**

What should you put in the journal entries? I want your *thoughts* and *reflections*, NOT a plot summary. I want you to respond to the characters, their actions and decisions, archaic customs, unfamiliar vocabulary terms, etc. If you need help, use the following questions, but don't feel like you are "bound" to them.

1. What do you like? Dislike? Find comfortable? Find irritating? Why?
2. Comment on the characters. Describe them in physical, mental, and emotional terms. Do any of the characters seem to change?
3. Describe the relationship between the characters. Explain what the characters seem to value (what is important).
4. Describe the setting. How is it important to the novel?
5. Explain and describe what unanswered questions you have thus far.
6. Describe the author's attitude toward life. Is he / she optimistic or pessimistic? Explain.
7. Discuss any prevalent literary devices: irony, tone, symbolism, etc.

The selections need to be read in their entirety and the assignments completed by Wednesday, August 19. 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)