

My Antonia
Willa Cather

READING LOG #3

Reading Logs are designed to increase comprehension by focusing your reading to allow you to demonstrate your understanding of the novel, and to focus our discussion of the book. Each response here may be in note form, brief and hand-written. Those responses that require a more lengthy response should be typed and attached to this log form. Those will be noted with an *.

Vocabulary words are also included. Please find definitions which fit the way the word was used in the particular passage noted.

Book III – Lena Linguard

Chapter I: (1)

1. Where does Jim Burden go to college? (You might have to do a little internet search to find the name of the college.)
2. What was the prerequisite Jim needed to complete to start his program? (Summer school!)
3. Examine Jim's experiences as a student. How is this similar to yours? Different?

Vocabulary: incongruous (166)

parsimonious (167)

squandered (167)

Chapter II: (2)

1. Jim quotes the poet, Virgil, by saying, "Optima dies...prima fugit." Translated from Latin to English, this says, "The best days are the first to flee." What does this mean to you? How does this philosophy fit the events in the book?
2. What does Lena plan to do with her earnings from her new business?
3. What news of Antonia does Lena bring to Jim? How does he react to this?

Vocabulary: indolent (169)

Chapter III: (3)

This chapter describes in great detail a play that Jim takes Lena to see. Modern readers have probably never seen "Camille." However, we learn about Jim and Lena through their reaction to the play. What do we learn?

Chapter IV: (4)

1. Who were the "three in love with Lena?" (p. 184)
2. Why didn't Lena marry?
3. Why does Jim transfer to Harvard College in Boston?

Vocabulary: "noblesse oblige" (184)

Entry 2: Book IV – Pioneer Woman's Story

Chapter I (1):

1. On p. 191, France Harling calls Antonia, "Poor Antonia." Why?
2. Briefly describe the current lives of the "Hired Girls."

Vocabulary: drudge (191)

faculty (194) (pay attention to context!)

Chapter II (2):

1. What reminds Jim of Antonia?
2. Describe Larry Donovan in your own words.

Vocabulary: aloofness (195)

Chapter III (3):

1. How has "the land" changed? (p. 197)
2. Where does Widow Steavens live?
3. On p. 207, Widow Steavens claims Antonia as "My Antonia." How does she compare Antonia to Lena?
4. Antonia is respected for a particular quality by all who know her. What is that quality?
5. Why does Widow Steavens feel that Antonia has missed any chance for marriage and a family?

Vocabulary: cowed (204)

Chapter IV (4):

1. Where do Antonia and Jim go to "catch up?"

***2. In this chapter, Willa Cather uses the sun/moon to show (symbolize) the differences in Antonia/Jim. What are the differences? What do they share? This is one place you might explore a little more fully.

Entry 3 – Book V - Cuzak's Boys

Chapter I (1)

1. How many years pass before Jim keeps his promise to Antonia? How old is Antonia now?

2. How do Tiny and Lena differ in their description of Cuzak?

3. Antonia makes a joke when she sees Jim—what is it?

4. What are the highlights of the Cuzak farm? (On the tour)

Vocabulary: complacently (212)

stalwart (213)

submerged (213)

irrelevant (213)

solicitude (226)

Chapter II (2):

1. What happened to the Cutters?

2. Describe Anton Cuzak from his own point of view but in your own words!

3. How does the end of this book bring Jim (and the reader) full circle?

Vocabulary: "Bohunk" (229) (Slang, you may need to use www.dictionary.com)

"disfigured china" p. 232

******Copy one passage from this section that you particularly like. Explain why this passage is necessary to the book. (5-7 sentences).**

Then write another paragraph (5-7 sentences) explaining why it is meaningful to you.