

Ascent Classical Academy of Grand Junction



11th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

All incoming 11th grade students will come to the first day of school having read the selected summer reading text. Summer is a great opportunity for students to leisurely read a story (or many stories!).

9th grade students will read and annotate the following text:

- **My *Ántonia* by Willa Cather**
 - ISBN: 978-0140187649

Assignment: Students will be expected to take reading notes and annotate the text. Notes and annotations will be due on **Friday, August 21** upon returning to school. Students will discuss the text and prepare an essay during the first weeks of the school year.

Reading Notes

First, especially if you read these books early in the summer, you will want to be able to quickly and effectively review them before the first week of school.

The following recommendations will help you remember/be able to review the characters, plot, and any questions you had as you read. You can use a notebook (if so, make sure to bring it to school!), the back of the book itself, page margins, or blank spaces at the beginning/end of chapters.

1. Take note when a new character is introduced or when you learn something new about a main character. By the end of reading each book, you should have a list of the main characters and some of their personal qualities, actions, and relationships throughout the story.
2. At the end of each chapter, summarize the important events of that chapter in bullet points. This way you can review your summaries before the first week of school and be prepared for the question: "what happened in this book?"
3. Write down any questions you have about each chapter. These may be comprehension/clarification questions about the situations and

characters, or "should" questions about the character's decisions and actions.

4. Circle or underline unfamiliar vocabulary. Define words as you read.

These notes should not take you much extra time to jot down and will form the groundwork for our in-class discussions.

Suggestions for completing Summer Reading: **Read with a friend!**

C.S. Lewis once said, "we read to know we are not alone." There are many ways we might interpret this statement, however, shared experience and discussion surrounding shared experience has a direct amplifying effect on our understanding. While this may feel a bit awkward at first, books are best enjoyed with others! Consider creating a meet-up with a group of friends or classmates who are reading the book. Identify which segments will be discussed and take turns answering the following:

1. Summarize the main theme/interesting turns/pivotal events (no spoilers!)
2. Who was your favorite character and why? How does the author create this persona?
3. Discuss/describe some beautiful language you encountered?
4. Was there anything that stirred, inspired, confused, or disturbed you?
5. Do you detect any foreshadowing (again - no spoilers! Discuss only the segment agreed upon!)