



## Take-home Essay Exam: *My Antonia*

*I pledge I did not confer with another person on this exam, and it is my own work.  
I have given appropriate credit for all ideas taken from the literary works I used.*

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Signature

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Date

**CHOOSE ANY TWO QUESTIONS. 50 POINTS EACH. You may do an extra question, if you like, making your possible grade 150 points. Doing an extra question cannot count against you, only for you.**

1. Jim defines happiness in Book I, Section II (just at the end) as “. . . **to be dissolved into something complete and great. When it comes to one, it comes as naturally as sleep.**” Would Antonia agree with this definition?
  - Write a 350-word essay, formal tone, not necessarily 5-paragraph to express your opinion about this question.
  - Be sure to include at least three quotes that will strengthen your argument.
2. Mr. Shimerda begs Jim to “**Te-e-ach, te-e-ach my Antonia**” in Book I, Section III (just at the end). Who learns more through their relationship, Jim or Antonia?
  - Write a 350-word essay, formal tone, not necessarily 5-paragraph to express your opinion about this question.
  - Be sure to include at least three quotes that will strengthen your argument.
3. In *My Antonia*, Cather uses symbols from nature to express the essential aspects of the lives of the characters. Some symbols are of the land: the prairie, the grass, winter, etc. Other symbols are animals: badgers, wolves, rattlesnakes, larks, etc. **Choose three symbols and discuss how they convey information about the daily lives of the characters, how the characters relate to each other and/or how Cather views life.**
  - Write a 350-word essay, formal tone, not necessarily 5-paragraph to express your opinion about this question.
  - Be sure to include at least three quotes that will strengthen your argument.
4. Overall, Cather seems to admire Antonia. Name and discuss **three characteristics that Antonia exhibits** that lead to Cather’s admiration.
  - Write a 350-word essay, formal tone, not necessarily 5-paragraph to express your opinion about this question.
  - Be sure to include at least three quotes that will strengthen your argument.
5. **The poem on the reverse side resembles *My Antonia* in its theme and as a celebration of the beauty of the prairie.** Draw parallels between the poem and the book.
  - Write a 350-word essay, formal tone, not necessarily 5-paragraph to express your opinion about this question.
  - Be sure to include at least three quotes that will strengthen your argument.
6. Cather’s depiction of Jim’s grandparents’ reaction to the Roman Catholic faith of the Shimerdas illustrates yet another major difference between the established Protestant Americans and the immigrants. **How might this difference be a reflection of religious and political disputes brought from Europe to the United States?**
  - Write a 350-word essay, formal tone, not necessarily 5-paragraph to express your opinion about this question.
  - Be sure to include at least three quotes that will strengthen your argument.