

Chapter 1 : o pioneers | Download eBook PDF/EPUB

Understanding O Pioneers! and My Antonia: A Student Casebook to Issues, Sources, and Historical Documents (The Greenwood Press "Literature in Context" Series) Hardcover - May 30, by Sheryl Meyering (Author).

Burden is 55 when her grandson arrives. This is the first time they see him, having moved to Nebraska ten years earlier. Burden is a religious Protestant and a successful farmer, who becomes a deacon in the Baptist church when they move to town. Jake Marpole Farm hand from Virginia at the Burden place. Peter Krajiek Fellow countryman of the Shimerda family; allegedly helpful to them. Otto Fuchs Farm hand from Austria at the Burden place. Lena Lingard Hired girl come from the countryside to work as a dressmaker in Black Hawk. Then she settles in San Francisco, bringing Lena to settle there as well. Peter and Pavel, Ole Benson, Mr. Plot summary[edit] Orphaned Jim Burden rides the trains from Virginia to Black Hawk, Nebraska, where he will live with his paternal grandparents. Jake, a farmhand from Virginia, rides with the year-old boy. On the same train, headed to the same destination, is the Shimerda family from Bohemia. Jim lives with his grandparents in the home they have built, helping as he can with chores to ease the burden on the others. The sleeping quarters and parlor are at ground level. The Shimerda family paid for a homestead which proves to have no home on it, just a cave in the earth, and not much of the land broken for cultivation. The two families are nearest neighbors to each other in a sparsely settled land. The two are friends from the start, helped by Mrs. Shimerda asking that Jim teach both her daughters to read English. Burden in her kitchen when she visits, learning more about cooking and housekeeping. The first year is extremely difficult for the Shimerda family, without a proper house in the winter. Shimerda comes to thank the Burdens for the Christmas gifts given to them, and has a peaceful day with them, sharing a meal and the parts of a Christian tradition that Protestant Mr. Burden and Catholic Mr. He did not want to move from Bohemia, where he had a skilled trade, a home and friends with whom he could play his violin. His wife is sure life will be better for her children in America. The pressures of the new life are too much for Mr. Shimerda, who kills himself before the winter is finished. The nearest Catholic priest is too far away for last rites. He is buried without formal rites at the corner marker of their homestead, a place that is left alone when the territory is later marked out with section lines and roads. The wood piled up to build their log cabin is made into a house. She is a girl full of life. Deep memories are set in both of them from the adventures they share, including the time Jim killed a long rattlesnake with a shovel they were fetching for Ambrosch, her older brother. A few years after Jim arrives, his grandparents move to the edge of town, buying a house while renting their farm. Their neighbors, the Harlings, have a housekeeper to help with meals and care of the children. When they need a new housekeeper, Mrs. Harling, who hires her for good wages. She stays in town for a few years, having her worst experience with Mr. The couple goes out of town while she is their housekeeper, after Mr. Jim stays there in her place, to be surprised by Mr. Instead, Jim punches him, until he realizes it is the owner of the house. He attends the new state university in Lincoln, where his mind is opened to a new intellectual life. In his second year, he finds one of the immigrant farm girls, Lena, is in Lincoln, too, with a successful dressmaking business. He takes her to plays, which they both enjoy. His teacher realizes that Jim is so distracted from his studies, that he suggests Jim come with him to finish his studies at Harvard in Boston. He does, where he then studies the law. He becomes an attorney for one of the western railroads. She moves back in with her mother. He visits with them, getting to know her sons especially. She is happy with her brood and all the work of a farm wife. Jim makes plans to take her sons on a hunting trip next year. It was considered a masterpiece and placed Cather in the forefront of novelists. Today, it is considered her first masterpiece. Cather was praised for bringing the American West to life and making it personally interesting. It brought place forward almost as if it were one of the characters, while at the same time playing upon the universality of the emotions, which in turn promoted regional American literature as a valid part of mainstream literature. Instead, each book contains thematic contrasts. The original version of My Antonia begins with an Introduction in which an author-narrator, supposed to be Cather herself, converses with her adult friend, Jim Burden, during a train journey. Jim is now a successful New York lawyer but trapped in an unhappy and childless marriage to a wealthy, activist woman.

She discovers the book in the apartment of the alcoholic reporter, Burke Devlin, played by Rock Hudson. About a young Nebraska country boy who has the hots for an older woman" page It is the first novel he ever read, and he expects Iowa to have the same grass "the color of wine stains" that Cather describes of Nebraska.

Chapter 2 : Download Understanding O Pioneers And My Antonia PDF – PDF Search Engine

Download Understanding O Pioneers And My Antonia in PDF Format. You also can read online Understanding O Pioneers And My Antonia and write the review about the book.

Her last novel appeared in 1917, and a volume of three more stories was published in 1918, shortly after she died. Forty-five years is a long career for a novelist, but she possessed an intensity of observation and a curiosity about human psychology, especially as it relates to nature, that never waned. Willa Cather was born in an interesting spot in the mountains of Virginia, near Winchester, on the banks of a tributary of the Potomac, Back Creek. The family properties one owned by her grandfather, another given to her father by her grandfather were about ninety miles from Washington, D. After their first winter in the country, they settled in Red Cloud, a new town six miles north of the Kansas border and about halfway between the northwestern corner of Missouri and the northeastern corner of Colorado. Willa was about to turn ten. In Nebraska, the Cathers, immigrants from Virginia, immediately encountered a huge population of other immigrants from more distant and perhaps more romantic places: Norway, Sweden, France, Bohemia, Mexico. A sense of the world that compelled Cather for the rest of her life began to develop, a sense of the world that is deeply American, simultaneously local and exploratory, rustic and cosmopolitan. It won the Pulitzer Prize. As a result, once we have read the early novels, we feel as though we are watching the characters from a distance as they put their lives together and move across the landscape. Other prominent and bestselling authors in the first two decades of the twentieth century were looking at Europe and high society Henry James, Edith Wharton or the future H. Wells or the trials of the urban poor Upton Sinclair, Winston Churchill – not the Winston Churchill, but a bestselling, now unknown novelist from St. The Song of the Lark, which focuses on Thea, a child of eleven, begins with a visit from the town doctor, who makes a house call and discovers that Thea has pneumonia. We are asked to contemplate Thea through the lens of her family, not her landscape – her family and friends are what she must leave in order to achieve renown as a musician. They reminisce about a striking girl whom they both remember fondly. He sends them to Cather, and his notes form the novel. In Red Cloud, Cather was old enough to remember Virginia and to observe the uniqueness of her new environment as well as the energy and hardships of the immigrants around her. In her biography of Cather, Hermione Lee points out that Cather also felt a sense of constriction in Red Cloud and that her seesaw of ambition and constriction was common to writers who were growing up in small towns during the same time period, such as Sinclair Lewis, Sherwood Anderson, and Theodore Dreiser. Life at the end of the nineteenth century meant easy rail transportation, lots of magazines, and plenty of books, but these modernizations came with the sense that one was an outsider. They also came with the sense that an outsider could get to the inside with some effort. At the University of Nebraska, Cather was ambitious in her studies and in her extracurricular literary activities, one of which was editing the Hesperian, the university literary journal. She studied with a journalism professor who was managing editor of the local town paper, and eventually he hired her to write reviews of itinerant theater productions put on by companies that passed through Red Cloud and Lincoln. Her column was called The Passing Show. Her reviews were often harsh, and because the acting companies were traveling from coast to coast, she became famous, or notorious, which led to a job with a magazine based in Pittsburgh called Home Monthly. When she left Nebraska for Pennsylvania, she was twenty-two. Jim is ten, sent from Virginia, where both of his parents have died, to his grandparents in Black Hawk. Shimerda never wanted to leave Bohemia in the first place. Cather gains a few things from ceding the narrative to a first-person male point of view – Jim is an active boy, raised without many restrictions, who can move at will in town and out in the countryside. He is not required to adhere to the same social norms as the girls are; the daughters of prosperous families have to behave like ladies, and the daughters of working families have to devote themselves to making money. He can also express all his varied feelings toward the girls he grows up with, who are much more the focus of the narrative than he is. Cather gives Jim Burden some of her own restlessness. He does well in school, goes to Lincoln, realizes that he is not cut out to be a scholar, and ends up in law school. But even as he succeeds, he cannot get his Black Hawk experiences

out of his mind: They were so much alive in me that I scarcely stopped to wonder whether they were alive anywhere else, or how. In the summer, she goes back to Nebraska to receive an honorary doctorate and then back to Red Cloud, perhaps for inspiration. Cather was killed in France and his death listed in one of the New York newspapers the inspiration for *One of Ours*. She immediately wrote to her aunt, lamenting G. As with the illustrations, she is particular about the details of the style, the paper, and the layout. Cather sent the proofs back to the publisher in early August, and the book was published in October. But finally, it all comes back to landscape, to humans changing and being changed by the difficulties and the beauties of the world they must contend with. Jane Smiley is the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of numerous novels, five works of nonfiction, and a series of books for young adults. She lives in Northern California.

Chapter 3 : Read Download My Antonia O Pioneers PDF – PDF Download

by Sheryl L. Meyering Greenwood Publishing Group Hardback Willa Cather's novels O Pioneers! and My Antonia are at once accurate representations of life on the midwestern prairies in the era of their first settlement and continuations of a literary tradition that stretches back to Virgil and other classical writers who celebrated nature and pondered humanity's place within it.

Also like Jim Burden, Cather would migrate to Nebraska at a young age. In Virginia, Willa established a strong relationship with her maternal grandmother, Rachel Boak, a woman who embodied traditional Southern womanhood for Cather, and who, by moving west with the family, would have a strong influence on her life and writing. Red Cloud, at the time, was a thriving railroad town of about eighteen hundred people. There were, of course, significant differences between the Virginia and Nebraska landscapes: Virginia was sparsely wooded and hilly, while Nebraska was flat and treeless. While Cather appears to have felt some initial homesickness, she would grow to love the Nebraska prairie, and she would become famous for singing its praises in books such as *O Pioneers!* Apart from growing to love the land, Cather also found the swelling ranks of immigrants on the prairie a subject of fascination. At the time, Nebraska was a destination for the waves of immigrants arriving from Europe, mostly because of the land made available through the Homestead Act, and the ease of access made possible by the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad. As a young woman in Red Cloud, Cather was able to find intellectual stimulation through her interaction with her grandmother Boak, through the generous library of the Weiner family, and through the classical music and opera she was exposed to by visits with the Miner family, the basis of the fictional Harling family in *My Antonia*. The daughters of the Miner family – Mary, Carrie, and Irene – were her best friends as a young woman and would remain close friends throughout her life. The Miners also employed a young Bohemian woman, Annie Sadilek, who would become the inspiration for Antonia Shimerda, the title character of *My Antonia*. She also wrote for the local paper. She finished high school at sixteen, and entered the University of Nebraska in , in Lincoln. Lincoln was considerably larger and busier than Red Cloud, and Cather took advantage of the bustle to find employment as a journalist. She was a diligent student, known for her strong opinions and her willingness to express them. She paid much of her own way through school as a journalist, and she graduated in with her reputation as a journalist well-established. During this period, she was able to meet well-known writers and political figures such as Stephen Crane and William Jennings Bryan. After graduation, Cather supported herself as a freelance journalist, splitting her time between Red Cloud and Lincoln, but was unable to secure full-time work as a writer or as a teacher. One of her greatest heroes as a writer, though, was Henry James, a writer whose early work had been along the lines of realism, but who seemed to be moving toward something else in his later work. It was a breakthrough for Cather, and she would eventually come to dominate the magazine, *Home Monthly*, contributing her own fiction, articles, and reviews. She also wrote part-time for the largest local newspaper, the *Pittsburgh Leader*. At the time, Pittsburgh was a part of the burgeoning steel industry in the United States, and the beneficence of Andrew Carnegie furnished the city with numerous arts and cultural attractions. She left the editorship at the magazine after a year to take a better-paying position as telegraph editor at the *Leader*. She also made an important friend in Pittsburgh, Isabelle McClung, who she met in . Some scholars have speculated that McClung and Cather were lovers, though Cather burned their correspondence. Cather left the newspaper in , moved into the McClung household, and took a position teaching high school. She taught both Latin and English Composition for six years. She managed to save enough money as a teacher and writer to visit Europe for the first time in . At about this time, Cather published a book of poems called *April Twilights*, in . Cather met several important writers through her work at the magazine, including Sarah Orne Jewett, who would become an important influence and companion. In fact, Jewett was so important to Cather that she would dedicate her breakthrough novel, *O Pioneers!* Cather moved into an apartment with Edith Lewis, a friend from Lincoln, in . In , Cather asked for a six-month leave to focus on her fiction. Though it did not sell very well, it did receive some encouraging reviews. The novel was based on the true story of a man killed by the collapse of a bridge near

Quebec in . Her next novel, based on her experience in Red Cloud and published in , received almost universal acclaim and established Cather as a novelist. *The Song of the Lark* tells the story, based on the life of Olive Fremstad, of a young woman from the plains who rises to fame as an opera singer. After *The Song of the Lark*, Cather fell on relatively hard times. Shortly thereafter, her friend Isabelle married a concert violinist, and Cather found her connection to Pittsburgh broken. She re-visited New Mexico, which had figured prominently in *The Song of the Lark* and which would become more important to her later in life, and she returned to Red Cloud, where she visited the person who was the basis of Antonia Shimerda. She published *Death Comes for the Archbishop* in , and then wrote little fiction in her remaining years, her final book, *Sapphira and the Slave Girl* being published in . Cather died in . Though considered a prominent writer in her own time, later critics notable the New Critics mostly ignored her work, until her fiction re-entered the canon in the s and s. Today, Willa Cather is considered one of the great writers in American Literature.

Chapter 4 : Willa Cather (Author of My Antonia)

SUMMARY. Willa Cather's novels Oh Pioneers! and My Antonia are at once accurate representations of life on the midwestern prairies in the era of their first settlement and continuations of a literary tradition that stretches back to Virgil and other classical writers who celebrated nature and pondered humanity's place within it.

Mencken In the mids, not long after I had moved from New York City to Lemmon, South Dakota, I attended a 90th birthday party for a woman who had been one of the original homesteaders in the area, having immigrated from Sweden with her parents in The Lutheran church basement was decorated with crepe-paper streamers, and one table held family photographs – color snapshots of the great-grandchildren, wedding photographs from the s, daguerreotypes of stern-faced ancestors in the Old Country. Some died so young. Sixteen, maybe – And she has got such a grip upon her materials. The prevailing literary style was for overrefined, predictable, plot-driven novels with characters who held fast to European pretensions and standards of gentility. Along with writers such as Theodore Dreiser and Sinclair Lewis, Willa Cather was seen by some contemporary critics as an answered prayer. While Europe figures in MY ANTONIA as a lost Eden, or a repository of terrible secrets that haunts the immigrants in their new land, the novel is solidly grounded in America, its language the uncluttered idiom of the farmers and townspeople of Webster County, Nebraska. She was the first of seven children. Her family settled on a farm near Red Cloud, Nebraska, which had been founded in , and by the time Willa Cather arrived, it had a population of about 1,, a school, and a small opera house. The near-treeless countryside could not have been less like Virginia, and the drastic change took a toll on the young Willa Cather. The wagon jolted on, carrying me I knew not where. As he is settling in with his grandparents, he notes with wonder that theirs is the only wooden house for miles around, and that their neighbors live in houses made of sod. His sense of being obliterated by the landscape remains strong: And there was so much motion in it; the whole country seemed, somehow, to be running. At the age of 11 Cather obtained employment delivering mail to the farms around Red Cloud, which gave her unparalleled access to the talk and the lives of her immigrant neighbors. The knowledge she gained about them, however, set her apart from the other English-speaking settlers. A cultured man, a violinist, he cannot bear the weight of the hardships he encounters in Nebraska – living with his family in a crude dugout and taking turns wearing the one overcoat they own. Shimerda was a common type among Plains homesteaders. My own great-grandfather Heyward, a proper Englishman, once refused to evacuate a South Dakota parsonage that was on fire until he was fully dressed. Why read it NOW? What possible relevance can it have for life in urban, postmodern America? Many people now alive, my own family included, share the story of the English, Scottish, and Irish immigrants who came to the Great Plains by way of New England or Virginia in the 19th and early 20th centuries. I suspect that Willa Cather would be fascinated by contemporary novels about more recent immigrants by the Asian-American and Hispanic writers who are currently enriching American literature. No doubt some of these writers have learned much from Cather about what it means, as a novelist, to have fidelity to a time and a place. MY ANTONIA concerns, as do many of these recent books, coming of age in a new place and culture; it also explores childhood affections, dreams once held dear, in the light of an adult awareness of displacement. While Cather witnessed the drastic changes that were occurring on the Plains in the transition from the 19th to the 20th century, from the first to the second and third generations of immigrants, a writer now living on the Plains would note another kind of change: Its population surged to nearly 2, in the s, and is down to some 1, people today. They want to buy everything ready-made: The cities of America contain a Great Plains diaspora, full of people who, like Jim Burden, left the small towns and farms of their youth for an easier life, who felt that they had to leave in order to make their way in the world. Like him, they are haunted by the past and by the painful ambiguities of their relationships with the friends and relatives who remained on the land. A lawyer in Fargo, North Dakota, the first in his family to graduate from college, told me recently that his family back in western North Dakota was enormously proud of his success, and would never forgive him for leaving. Visiting her after an absence of 20 years, after tragedies and disappointments have come to them both, Jim Burden finds Antonia at the center of a thriving family,

enormously proud of the fruit orchards she has brought out of nothing. The vulnerability of young women, especially poor country girls, to sexual betrayal, to scandal and censure in late-century society, informs much of the book. Cather also makes a sophisticated commentary on the distinctions that began to emerge between country people and town people in her youth. When she was 12 years old, her family moved from their unsuccessful farm to Red Cloud, where her father set up a loan and mortgage business. The well-guarded conformity of the many not only stifles the independent spirit, it can destroy it. Critics have often commented on the fact that Jim Burden, in many senses, stands in for Willa Cather: In recent years some feminist critics have called it reactionary; others have termed it a liberating act in the days before American women even had the right to vote. I like to be like a man. An piece all but scorches the page: But they have great standards, that saves them. Each house has its own little new improved portable idol and could never be convinced that it was not just as good as any other idol. Here the great standards of art avail nothing. You are then a translator, without a lexicon, without notes. It is a solemn and terrible thing to write a novel. Its heroine, the ambitious and resourceful Thea Kronborg, pursues her career as a singer despite a disapproving family and men who underestimate her. Her triumph is singing at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. In many ways the novel is a perfect evocation of childhood. The task for Jim Burden in recounting the past is not to dwell in it, but to use it to celebrate the present, however reluctantly. The reader comes to understand that both Jim and Antonia have done well not to triumph over circumstance but to keep both memory and hope alive within its bounds. The task for Cather, as novelist, is to describe the past in such a way that it is truly evoked, with a minimum of nostalgia or sentimentality. This she does in part by making indelible the vigor, the very voice of Antonia Shimerda; we see Antonia running barefoot in her garden, gripping plow handles behind a team of horses, gathering her children to her side. Everything she said seemed to come right out of her heart. As a successful legal counsel for the railroad, long settled into a disappointing marriage, Jim has learned not to expect so much from those around him. But his friendship with Antonia remains, and it is one that might strike the modern American reader as something of a miracle. In our mobile society, not many of us can lay claim to such lifelong relationships. Wisely, he and Cather let Antonia sum it up: More from Willa Cather: The Road Is All 3.

Chapter 5 : My Antonia: Biography: Willa Cather | Novelguide

Willa Cather's novels Oh Pioneers! and My Antonia are at once accurate representations of life on the midwestern prairies in the era of their first settlement and continuations of a literary tradition that stretches back to Virgil and other classical writers who celebrated nature and pondered.

Chapter 6 : Understanding O Pioneers! and My Antonia: Sheryl L Meyering: calendrierdelascience.com: BO

Three classic novels by Willa calendrierdelascience.coming to Wikipedia: "Willa Sibert Cather (December 7, [1] - April 24,) was an American author who achieved recognition for her novels of frontier life on the Great Plains, in works such as O Pioneers!, My Antonia, and The Song of the Lark.

Chapter 7 : my antonia | Download eBook PDF/EPUB

Get this from a library! Understanding O pioneers! and My Antonia: a student casebook to issues, sources, and historical documents. [Sheryl L Meyering].

Chapter 8 : My Antonia - Wikipedia

Understanding O pioneers! and My Antonia: a student casebook to issues, sources, and historical documents. [Sheryl L Meyering] -- Publisher's description: Willa Cather's novels Oh Pioneers! and My Antonia are at once accurate representations of life on the midwestern prairies in the era of their first settlement and.

Chapter 9 : Download [PDF] My Antonia O Pioneers Free Online | New Books in Politics

Understanding O Pioneers! and My Antonia: A Student Casebook to Issues, Sources, and Historical Documents (The Greenwood Press "Literature in Context" Series) by Sheryl L. Meyering and a great selection of similar Used, New and Collectible Books available now at calendrierdelascience.com