

STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS FOR MY ANTONIA

INTRODUCTION

1. From whose point of view is the story being told?
2. Who is Jim Burden? What career has he chosen? Where does he live?
3. Who is the girl that represents their youth?
4. What does Jim bring to the narrator? Why does he title his work My Antonia?

BOOK I THE SHIMERDAS

1. Where are Jim and Jake going? Why?
2. What is unusual about the family Jim sees at the train station?
3. Describe Otto Fuchs, Grandmother and Grandfather Burden and Jake Marpool.
4. What has Krajiek done to the Shimerda family?
5. Identify and describe the members of the Shimerda family.
6. What does Mr. Shimerda want Jim to do for Antonia?
7. Why are the Shimerdas excited to meet Peter and Pavel?
8. How did Jim killing the rattlesnake change him in Antonia's eyes? What is ironic about the snake?
9. What is the story behind Peter and Pavel coming to America?
10. How do the Burdens find the Shimerdas when they go to visit during the winter?
11. Compare the visit of Mr. Shimerda to the Burdens to Mrs. Shimerda's visit.
12. What does Jim discover when he awakens on the morning of the 22nd?
13. Where is Mr. Shimerda put to rest?
14. How did Antonia change after her father's death?
15. What happens when Jake and Jim go to get the horse collar Ambrosch borrowed?
16. How does Grandfather Burden break the ice between the two families?

BOOK II THE HIRED GIRLS

1. When Jim has lived with his grandparents three years, what do they decide to do?
2. What happens to Jake and Otto?
3. Describe the Harling family.
4. How does Jim's grandmother get Antonia off the farm?
5. Who are the other hired girls? What do they do?
6. Describe what winter is like on the prairie.
7. What happens when the dancing pavilion comes to town?
8. What do the townspeople feel is the social position of the hired girls?
9. What did the dancing pavilion mean to Antonia?
10. Why does Mr. Harling give Antonia an ultimatum? What is the ultimatum?

11. Who is Wick Cutter? What is his reputation?
12. Why do others think that there is something wrong with Jim?
13. How did Jim's grandmother get him to toe the line?
14. Who did Jim dedicate his commencement address to?
15. What does Jim do the summer after his commencement? Why?
16. What promise does Jim make to Antonia during his one summer holiday?
17. What happens when the Cutters go to Omaha?

BOOK III LENA LINGARD

1. Who becomes Jim's mentor at the university?
2. Although Jim is introduced to the world of ideas, does he give up the people from his past?
3. What does "optima dies . . . prima fugit" mean?
4. Who enters Jim's life during the March of his sophomore year?
5. What does Lena tell Jim about Antonia?
6. What does Lena say is Antonia's failing?
7. What social activities do Jim and Lena participate in?
8. What does Lena tell Jim about her future/
9. Why does Cleric want to take Jim back east?

BOOK IV THE PIONEER WOMAN'S STORY

1. How old is Jim when he completes his studies at Harvard?
2. Why is Jim disappointed in Antonia?
3. What has become of Lena? Tiny?
4. What causes Jim to feel he must see Antonia again?
5. To whom does Jim go to learn about Antonia?
6. What does he learn happened to Antonia?
7. How does Antonia react when she sees Jim? Where do they go to talk?
8. What career path has Jim chosen?
9. What does Jim say Antonia means to him?
10. Jim promises to return, but what does Antonia say if he does not return?

BOOK V CUZAK'S BOYS

1. How many years pass before Jim sees Antonia again?
2. Has Jim had any contact with her over the years?
3. Who convinces Jim to look up Antonia?
4. Where does he meet the first of Antonia's sons?
5. Does Antonia recognize Jim at first?
6. List the names of Antonia's children.
7. How does Jim feel about the way life has changed the outer Antonia?
8. How is Jim received by Antonia's family?
9. What does Jim think of Antonia's husband?
10. What happened to the Cutters?

- 11. What does Jim promise to do as he is leaving the Cuzaks?**
- 12. Why is Jim so nice to the Cuzak boys?**
- 13. What is Jim's visit to Black Hawk like?**
- 14. Where does he go that makes him feel at home?**
- 15. What does Jim realize at the end of the book/**