



**Trinity High School English Department
Summer 2009 Reading Requirement
Pre-IB Sophomore Year English**



Reading ability is a widely cited factor in determining academic success in several disciplines. To foster language skills, critical reflection, and a love of literature, the English Department requires Pre-IB English sophomores to read the following texts this summer:

The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams (Peoples Publishing; 978-0811214049)

My Antonia by Willa Cather (Pocket Books; 978-0743487696)

Sister Carrie by Theodore Dreiser (Pocket Books; 978-1416561491)

Please purchase the editions indicated. Students are asked to read actively by highlighting and annotating their texts. In addition, students must complete a journal entry of at least 6-8 pages which examines the following question:

From its inception, people have moved to America to achieve the American Dream. The American Dream is simply defined as achieving opportunity, wealth, and success which ultimately leads to happiness and contentment. Based on *My Antonia*, *Sister Carrie*, and *The Glass Menagerie*, explain how the quest to achieve the “American Dream” impacted the lives of two characters from each work.

- Your entry should be at least 6-8 pages written, 2-3 pages devoted to each work.
- Do not merely summarize the plot. Analyze key passages throughout each work.
- Make sure to provide an introduction, thesis statement, and conclusion in your answer. Your body paragraphs should relate directly to your thesis statement.
- Avoid first and second person in your answer (I, me, you, yours, we, etc).
- Use a variety of word choice and sentences.
- Make sure you provide direct quotes and page numbers from each work. Your answer should contain at least 4 quotes from each novel. When you cite your quote, use proper MLA format. For example, a quote from *My Antonia* should be followed by the name of the author and the page number (Cather 30).
- Be ready to verify that the work is your own original effort.

Upon returning to school in August, please be prepared to submit your journal to your English teacher for assessment along with evidence of conscientious annotations in your paperbacks. Annotations may include questions, comments, insights, comparisons to others works you have read, and definitions of unfamiliar words. Highlight significant passages of character description, conflict, imagery, symbolism, and dialogue. Consider as well how the structure of each work contributes to its meaning. Please direct any questions to Ms. Rose Crnkovich, English Department Chair, ph: (708) 453-8392; e-mail: ib@trinityhs.org.

Wishing you a very happy and productive summer!