**Contrasts (Response #6)**

Authors often use contrasts to make their points. This technique is frequently used by Willa Cather in My Ántonia.Explain the significance of the contrast listed below.

**1. Town life vs. country life.** How does the level of civilization in town contrast with country life? Give a few examples of activities, interactions, etc.

What might be Cather’s message—about men, about women, about her time period, about what she approves of, about what she doesn’t approve of? **Include a few specific quotes or examples in your explanation** of the contrast.

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**2. The different Harling family members.** How are the Harling children treated differently based on age, gender, etc.? How is the family’s life different when the father is at home? What is remarkable about Frances Harling?

What might be Cather’s message—about men, about women, about her time period, about what she approves of, about what she doesn’t approve of? **Include a few specific quotes or examples in your explanation** of the contrast.

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**3. Hired girls vs. town girls.** What does Jim mean when he says “The country girls were considered a menace to the social order” (p. 129)?

What might be Cather’s message—about men, about women, about her time period, about what she approves of, about what she doesn’t approve of? **Include a few specific quotes or examples in your explanation** of the contrast.

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**4. Immigrant farmers vs. Black Hawk merchants.** Why does Jim flash-forward to the future to make statements like “the foreign farmers in our county were the first to become prosperous” (p. 128).

What might be Cather’s message—about men, about women, about her time period, about what she approves of, about what she doesn’t approve of? **Include a few specific quotes or examples in your explanation** of the contrast.

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**5. The country girls’ early lives on their farms vs. their experiences in town.** How does coming to town change their daily lives? How does it change their dreams and goals for the future?

What might be Cather’s message—about men, about women, about her time period, about what she approves of, about what she doesn’t approve of? **Include a few specific quotes or examples in your explanation** of the contrast.

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**6. Dances at the Owl Club vs. the Firemen’s Hall.** Why does Jim refuse to join one dancing group but sneak out to join the other? Why does this concern his grandmother?

What might be Cather’s message—about men, about women, about her time period, about what she approves of, about what she doesn’t approve of? **Include a few specific quotes or examples in your explanation** of the contrast.

**Contrasts (Response #6)**

Authors often use contrasts to make their points. This technique is frequently used by Willa Cather in My Ántonia.Explain the significance of the contrast listed below.

**7. Ántonia vs. Lena.** How does Jim relate differently to these two girls? How do they serve as a contrast for each other?

What might be Cather’s message—about men, about women, about her time period, about what she approves of, about what she doesn’t approve of? **Include a few specific quotes or examples in your explanation** of the contrast.

**Contrasts (Response #6)**

Authors often use contrasts to make their points. This technique is frequently used by Willa Cather in My Ántonia.Explain the significance of the contrast listed below.

**8. Jim’s future vs. the hired girls’ future.**When Jim and his friends talk about the future, what different roles do they foresee for each other? Why is Jim’s path assumed to be so different from the others’ paths?

What might be Cather’s message—about men, about women, about her time period, about what she approves of, about what she doesn’t approve of? **Include a few specific quotes or examples in your explanation** of the contrast.