

First Baptist Academy English 7 Summer Reading 2018

The Wind Blows Free

by Loula Grace Erdman

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“Forced to give up his store in East Texas, Mr. Pierce introduces his family to the daunting challenge of life in a sod hut on the windswept plain of the Texas Panhandle. While the move offers a prospect of something new to little Carolyn and adventure to the lively twins, Bert and Dick, it promises to be an ordeal of labor and isolation for Mama, Melinda and timid Katie. 14-year-old Melinda Pierce, the oldest, is especially dismayed. She has given up her friends and happy town life, for this? She clings tightly to her grandmother’s promise that when Melinda is 16 she may return to East Texas and join her friends at school. Before long, however, Melinda is caught up in the compelling beauty of this land of wind and wide horizons, with its adventures and with its gift of new friendship.” (review on *Amazon*)

You will need to purchase a copy of the above text. In addition to reading this work of historical fiction, you will need complete the following assignments. All writing assignments will be typed following MLA formatting guidelines:

- As you read you will need to write a four – six sentence summary for each chapter. Remember that summaries include only the most important information from each chapter. These may be written as you finish reading each chapter.
- In addition to the summaries, choose one of the following projects to complete:
 1. Create a small model of a typical dugout house that the pioneers in the Panhandle lived in. Use information from the novel as well as information you get on the internet.
 2. Write a 300 – 400 word report on one of the cattle drive trails that passed through Texas. Include information such as: who started the trail, what life was like for the cowboys on the trail, where the trail started and ended, and what ended the era of the cattle drives.

All assignments are due to your English teacher the day you come back to school on August 20. The summaries will count 50% and the project 50% of your grade on the Summer Reading. Resist the temptation to copy and paste from the internet. You only get better at reading by actually reading, and the better you get at reading, the more you come to enjoy it. So, happy reading and learning this summer!