

**St. Mary's Academy**  
**2022-2023 Summer Reading**  
**AP English Language & Composition**

Rising juniors entering the AP English Language and Composition course are to read closely and annotate *Death Comes for the Archbishop* by Willa Cather. Students will be expected to demonstrate their knowledge of the book in class discussions and assessments during the first week of school.

**Guidelines:**

**Close Reading**

- Look for *patterns, repetitions (motifs), and recurring elements; unusual syntax and diction; figurative language and archetypal elements; and passages that strike you as highly significant.*

**Annotating**

Annotating is essential for close and critical reading of texts in preparation for class discussions, writing assignments, analyses, research, and exam responses. Digital texts will be held to these same expectations, so you may want to consider getting a paperback copy of the book.

- *Highlight* critical elements of the plot, so you have a condensed version of the novel to review when studying. This way you can skim your highlights to refresh your memory of what happened instead of reviewing the whole novel or summary websites that leave out key details.
- *Underline* phrases you find meaningful, represent repetitive themes or images (motifs), and/or reveal figurative language.
- *Circle* words you do not recognize.
- *Bracket* sentences and passages that stand out, develop an argument, or make a point.
- *Connect* important ideas, words, phrases with *arrows*.
- *Label* themes, repeated symbols, etc. in margins.
- Your book may be checked for these annotations in the first week. Bring it to class, and be prepared for that assessment in addition to class discussions of the novel.

**Assignment:**

In addition to annotations and participation in class discussions, there will be a test and an in class essay within the first week of school.