Quiz: My Antonia

Name____________________________

A. Answer any 24 questions. Each question counts 3 points. Answer briefly, with a word, phrase or short sentences.

1. The author describes Jim’s disposition as
   a. cynical
   b. romantic
   c. mocking
   d. unemotional

2. When Jim’s train reaches the station in Nebraska, a small group of immigrants is on the platform. What country are they from?

3. The name of Jim’s grandparents’ hired man was
   a. Oscar Funk
   b. Otto Fuchs
   c. Oscar Fundt
   d. Otto Funsch

4. The last name of the immigrant neighbors was
   a. Shimerda
   b. Schmidt
   c. Simmons
   d. Anthony

5. Describe Antonia’s family’s first American house.

6. Describe the house of Peter and Pavel.

7. How did Peter and Pavel become outcasts?

8. What animal did Jim kill while visiting the prairie-dog town with Antonia?

9. To what animal does Jim’s grandmother and the author compare Antonia’s family’s life?

10. What precious gift did Antonia’s mother give Jim’s grandmother that she did not immediately recognize and appreciate?

11. Antonia’s mother puts pressure on Jim’s grandmother to give her things. Why does it seem to Antonia’s mother that she deserves such help?
12. Antonia’s father is found dead. It is unclear if it was murder or suicide. Jim, though, says he died of a different cause altogether. What was it?

13. Anton Jelinek tells Jim’s family that he was in a camp where many soldiers died of cholera. He did not die. To what did he attribute his escaping death?

14. At the funeral of Antonia’s father, her mother tries to make Julka do something. Jim’s grandmother steps in to say she should not make her do this thing. What was it?

15. “The spot most dear” to Jim in the countryside was a place where two roads intersected in a special way. What was special about this place?

16. Jim’s grandfather forgives Antonia’s mother a debt she owes him. What was the debt?

17. When Jim’s family moves into town, their neighbors are Norwegians named
   a. Starling
   b. Harling
   c. Hausch
   d. Straugh

18. Jim’s neighbors hire Antonia for what job?

19. What is Lena Lingard’s occupation when she moved to town?

20. What did Lena do while she was watching cattle on the prairie?

21. One beautiful summer day a strange man comes up to Ole while he is threshing. He drives the thresher for a few minutes, and then does what?

22. What did Jim say about Blind d’Arnault’s face when he played the piano?

23. Who started the extremely popular dances at the tent pavilion one June?

24. Who were “the hired girls”?

25. Did Antonia like going to the dancing tent? Why or why not?

26. Who was Wick Cutter?

27. What was a Lapp?

28. How did Wick Cutter humiliate his wife on a train trip to Omaha?
B. Each question counts 14 points. Use your own paper; write a paragraph for each question:

1. Book III on Lena Lingard seems out of place. It only touches on Antonia. What was the author’s purpose in adding it?

2. The author contrasts life on the prairie with life in town. Aside from considerations of plot and character development, why did she use both settings?