

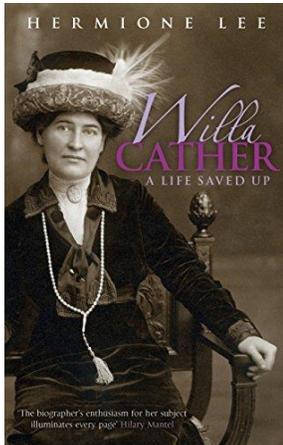
Agrégation 2017

Recommandations estivales de la part des enseignants

My Ántonia (Mme Collinge-Germain)

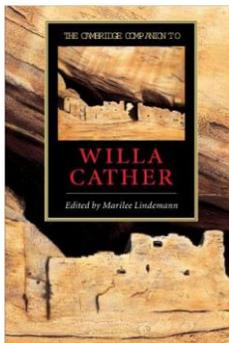
Advice for students preparing the « Agrégation interne 2017 »

- 1) More than anything, read the novel first for an overall impression, then a second time taking notes. Know the contents of each of the five chapters very well.
- 2) If you want to continue by reading critical works, you may want to look at:



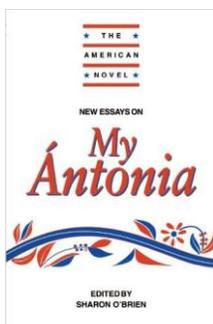
Hermione Lee's biography [Willa Cather, A Life Saved Up](#) (1989) (published in the US as *Willa Cather: Double Lives*) The short introduction to the 2008 edition presents a nice overview of criticism on Cather since 1989.

[Amazon blurb: A biography of Willa Cather (1873-1947), who spent years working as a journalist, teacher and editor of a New York magazine whose deepest feelings were directed towards women. Her friendships from Sarah Orne Jewett and Dorothy Canfield to Stephen Tennant and Yehudi Menuhin were important to her yet as she became more famous she withdrew increasingly from the modern world she disliked. Willa Cather's fiction charts new, female versions of epic pioneering heroism and the extraordinary cultural encounters of the New World history. This major reinterpretation of Cather's work explores that American context and those traditions but finds a strange and disconcerting Cather a writer of split identities, sexual conflict, dramatic energies and stoic fatalism. The author has written books on Elizabeth Bowen, Virginia Woolf and Philip Roth and *The Short Stories of Willa Cather*.]



[The Cambridge Companion to Willa Cather](#), edited by Marilee Lindemann, Cambridge UP, 2005. This collection of critical essays, according to Hermione Lee, sees Cather as “a writer more concerned with politics, economics, race, immigration, anthropology, modernity, multiculturalism and empire than her traditional admirers have allowed” (xiii).

[Amazon blurb: Thirteen original essays by leading scholars cover the complete range of Cather's career, including most of her novels and short stories. The essays situate this major, enigmatic American novelist's work in a broad range of critical, cultural, and literary contexts. The introduction explores current trends in Cather scholarship and her place in contemporary culture. A detailed chronology and a guide to further reading complete the volume.]



[New Essays on My Ántonia](#), edited by Sharon O'Brien, (1999) may also be helpful.

[Amazon blurb: *My Ántonia* is the Cather novel that is most often taught in high school and college courses, and the one that most readers try first when they approach Cather. It is at once her most autobiographical novel and her most aesthetically complex; it can be enjoyed both for its simple, pure prose and for its literary depth. The essays in this volume place the novel in the context of American literary history, African-American music, and Southern writing, and offer illuminating ways of reading Cather's best-known work.]

