

APUSH II Summer Assignment

Bread Givers

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This masterwork of American immigrant literature is set in the 1920s on the Lower East Side of Manhattan and tells the story of Sara Smolinsky, the youngest daughter of an Orthodox rabbi, who rebels against her father's rigid conception of Jewish womanhood. Sarah's struggle towards independence and self-fulfillment resonates with a passion all can share. Beautifully redesigned page for page with the previous editions, *Bread Givers* is an essential historical work with enduring relevance. 16 black-and-white photographs (Amazon.com)

Rationale

The summer assignment provides students the opportunity to look into post-Reconstruction America. Approximately 20% of the AP exam administered will be based on this time period. This assignment, which is divided into two parts, is given over the summer to expose students to the type of reading and writing work they will be completing this year and to help guarantee that the AP history classes will be able to spend the necessary amount of time needed in studying post-reconstruction history.

Part I Directions: Read the book and answer the questions below in essay or short response essay format.

Book I: Hester Street

1. Discuss Sara and Masha. How are their experiences different? In what ways are they similar?
2. Discuss the role of gender reflected in Book 1.
3. Describe the “established Jewish Immigrant” and the “new or greenhorn immigrant”. In particular, pay attention to their approach to “old world values and new world values”.
4. Discuss the term used as the title of the book. “Bread Giver”

Book II: Between Two Worlds

1. Discuss hardships of the poor.
2. Discuss for Sara, the struggle for independence in the “new world”.

Book III: The New World

1. Explain what main character Sara Smolinsky means when she says, “It wasn’t my father, but the generation who made my father whose weight was still upon me.”

Final Response: Describe the changing city surrounding the Smolinsky family. In what ways was Urban America changing in early twentieth century?

Part II will be completed in class during the first quarter.