Neighbor Rosicky
by Willa Cather

Fundamentals of Literature for Christian Schools
pp.126-149
disposition (n) 127-1
one’s usual mood; prevailing tendency; administration, control; usual temperament
dispose (v)
slovenly (adj) 128-1
untidy or unclean in appearance or habits; sloppy, *unkempt
slovenliness (n)
slovenly (adv)
*accord (v) 133-2
agreement; reconcile; to grant
accorded
exultation (n) 129-1
lively or triumphant joy
exultant (adj)
exult (v)
fret (v) 135-2
to feel or express worry or discontent; to cause to suffer emotional strain; to eat or gnaw into; agitate
crimson (adj) 138-1  deep purplish-red

*wretched (adj) 140-1  miserable; pitiable; deeply afflicted, dejected, or distressed in body or mind
wretchedly (adv)  wretchedness (n)

frank (adj) 141-2  direct and unreservedly honest; unmistakably evident
frankness (n)

perplex (v) 147-2  mystify; confound; unable to grasp something clearly or to think logically; puzzled

foul (adj) 144-2  grossly offensive (vs. fowl--birds)
*loathsome; morally or spiritually *odious
Willa Cather  
1873-1947

- American author who achieved recognition for her novels of frontier life on the Great Plains, in works such as *O Pioneers!*, *My Ántonia*, and *The Song of the Lark*.
- In 1923 she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for *One of Ours* (1922), a novel set during World War I.
- Cather grew up in *Nebraska* and graduated from the University of Nebraska.
- She lived and worked in Pittsburgh for ten years; at age 33 she moved to New York for the rest of her adult life and writing career.
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What character trait do the following show about the character?

- “They [Rosicky and his wife] had been of one accord not to hurry through life, not to be always skimping and saving. They saw their neighbors buy more land and feed more stock without discontent.”
  
  — patience
What character trait does the following show about the character?

- Rosicky always seemed to be willing to look at a person’s strengths rather than his weaknesses. Of Polly and his mother he says, “Yes, she’s [Polly] a fine girl. Dat widder woman [Polly’s mother] bring up her daughters up very nice. Polly got lots of spunk, an’ she got some style, too.”

— kindness
What character trait do the following show about the character?

• Mary described how her husband treated her when their children were born: “Yes, and he used to bring me my breakfast, too, mighty nice. I was always awful awful hungry! — unselfishness

• The girl at the merchandise store observed, “I never did see a man buy so much candy for his wife.” — kindness
What character trait do the following show about the character?

- Mary admired how Anton “never under any circumstance raised his voice or spoke roughly.”
  – patience
What character trait do the following show about the character?

- Rosicky explains to his unmarried sons, “Listen boys; Polly ain’t lookin’ so good. I don’t like to see nobody lookin’ sad. It comes hard fer a town girl to be a farmer’s wife. I don’t want no trouble to start in Rudolph’s family. An American girl don’t git used to our ways all at once. I want to take de car down to Rudolph’s, and let him an’ Polly go in. She don’t git into town enough, an’ I’m afraid she’s getting’ lonesome, an’ he can’t afford no car yet.”

  — unselfishness
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1. What does Rosicky value most for his children?
2. Why does Rosicky like country life more than city life?
3. Would you agree or disagree?