



Assignment A: Background Information for *Appalachian Spring*

The narrative action of *Appalachian Spring* centers around the early 19th century wedding of a young pioneer couple embarking as homesteaders in the Pennsylvania frontier wilderness.

The cast of characters includes: The Bride, The Husbandman, The Pioneer Woman, a Revivalist preacher and four girl Followers.

The participants enter slowly, one at a time — with considerable space between them — almost as if they are being formally introduced. The young couple and guests, except for the Revivalist, dance in celebration.

The Husbandman and Bride then each dance a soliloquy — the Bride expressing visions of joy, but also anxieties and fears; the Husbandman expressing anticipation of and pride in the challenges ahead. During the soliloquies, there are brief intervals when the two interact, affirming their belief that together they will prevail.

The Pioneer Woman, who knows what lies ahead, dances reaffirmation belief in the couple's future. The Revivalist delivers a fanatic hellfire and brimstone sermon. His points are underscored by frenetic Revival meeting-type dance responses of the Followers and The Revivalist's interactions with them.

The wedding takes place; the visitors depart.

The young couple is alone in the vast wilderness, ready to face future challenges together.