

Remember
to annotate
as you read.

Notes

Black Sunday: An Eyewitness Account

- 1 April 14, 1935, is the date of the worst dust storm in our nation's history, now known as Black Sunday. Pauline Winkler Grey, who lived with her husband in Meade County, Kansas, gives this first person account of what happened that day.
- 2 "By noon the radio gave warning that the barometer was falling rapidly; this was almost a sure sign that there would be a dust storm soon. . . ."
- 3 "I rushed to the window. . . . On the south there was blue sky, golden sunlight and tranquility; on the north, there was a menacing curtain of boiling black dust. . . . It had the appearance of a mammoth waterfall in reverse—color as well as form. As the wall of dust and sand struck our house the sun was instantly blotted out completely. Gravel particles clattered against the windows and pounded down on the roof. We stood in our living room in pitch blackness. . . . Finally, we groped our way to the wall switch and turned on the light. . . ."
- 4 "When we flipped the switch again, we could see only a dark brown mass of soil pressed tightly against the outside of the glass. . . . Sometime before normal sunset time, the sun reappeared briefly. . . . The wind gradually subsided . . . but fine particles of wheat-land soil sifted down from the sky. . . ."
- 5 Pauline Winkler Grey and her husband were more fortunate than many others. Their home wasn't destroyed. Most important of all, they survived.