

English 10/Honors English 10

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

Overview:

Living on a peach farm in South Carolina with her harsh, unyielding father, Lily Owens has shaped her entire life around one devastating, blurred memory - the afternoon her mother was killed, when Lily was four. Since then, her only real companion has been the fierce-hearted, and sometimes just fierce, black woman Rosaleen, who acts as her "stand-in mother."

When Rosaleen insults three of the deepest racists in town, Lily knows it's time to spring them both free. They take off in the only direction Lily can think of, toward a town called Tiburon, South Carolina - a name she found on the back of a picture amid the few possessions left by her mother. There they are taken in by an eccentric trio of black beekeeping sisters named May, June, and August. Lily thinks of them as the calendar sisters and enters their mesmerizing secret world of bees and honey, and of the Black Madonna who presides over this household of strong, wise women. Maternal loss and betrayal, guilt and forgiveness entwine in a story that leads Lily to the single thing her heart longs for most.

-Barnes and Noble

Important Information:

- The summer reading assignment for this course is due on the first day of class. All assignments must be typed, printed, and stapled together in one cohesive packet.
- DO NOT rely on the movie. You will not be able to effectively complete this assignment without reading the book.
- Be prepared for an in-class written assignment to be assigned on the first day of class.

Assignment: Read the novel *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd and complete four double-entry logs (two passages per log). Please divide the double-entry logs as follows:

- **Chapters 1-4**
- **Chapters 5-8**
- **Chapters 9-11**
- **Chapters 12-14**

Directions for Double-Entry Logs
All logs must be TYPED and PRINTED for our first class meeting.

Step 1:

Divide your paper in half, long-wise. Put your name, date and the chapter numbers at the top left of your paper.

Step 2:

Set up the log as follows:

ON THE LEFT:

Pull out two short passages from your assigned reading. Write the passage out and put quotations around it. Write the chapter number and the page number next to the quotation. If the passage is too long write out the first sentence or two, then put in ellipsis (...), then the last sentence or two. **You must include the page number(s) of your chosen passage.**

Step 3:

ON THE RIGHT:

Respond to each of the two passages you pulled out. Write out your questions, comments, or inferences. Say why the passage is strange or interesting. **DO NOT SIMPLY SUMMARIZE THE PASSAGE. You will not receive credit for summaries.** You also should not simply write: "I do not understand what this says." Each response must be at least one full paragraph. Put some space in between each passage so they can be distinguished from one another.

I'm looking for your interaction with the reading.

Some ideas you can use for your responses on the right side of the paper:

1. What is interesting about this passage?
2. What does the passage tell us about the character's motivations?
3. Is there symbolism in the passage? Explain it.
4. Does the reading remind you of another book you've read or a movie you've seen? How so?
5. How does the passage move you emotionally?
6. What do you think will happen next?
7. What is strange about this passage?
8. Does the passage reflect the time period or literary time period of the novel?
9. Does the passage give us any evidence for any theme(s) you see in the novel?
10. Or: Come up with your own response! You could make a real-life connection to the passage!

IMPORTANT: You do not have to answer all of the above questions! Simply choose one question (or create your own) and type your one-paragraph response.

(Example of log set-up)

John Brown

July 15, 2015

The Secret Life of Bees Chapters 1-4

Passages (including chapter # and page #)	Response to passages
“” – Chapter 2, page 35	This is where you will write out your questions, comments, real-life connections, or inferences. Summaries of the chapters will not receive credit! Please reference page two of this document for ideas. <u>Each response should be one full paragraph.</u>
“” – Chapter 4, page 70	This is where you will write out your questions, comments, real-life connections, or inferences. Summaries of the chapters will not receive credit! Please reference page two of this document for ideas. <u>Each response should be one full paragraph.</u>