

English 10 Summer Reading Assignment

In order to keep up your critical reading skills and get you into the mind-frame of American Literature, which is the sophomore year's literary focus; you are required to read *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd and **1 free choice book**. This assignment must be brought to your English class on September 8, 2017. It will count towards your first quarter grade. The assignment will be graded as follows:

- *The Secret Life of Bees* assignment will count as a project. Projects account for 25% of your overall grade.
- In addition you will be quizzed on *The Secret Life of Bees*. Quizzes account for 15% of your overall grade.
- Your free choice book Questionnaire counts as a class assignment. Class assignments account for 25% of your overall grade.

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

Set in South Carolina in 1964, *The Secret Life of Bees* tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce-hearted black "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three of the deepest racists in town, Lily decides to spring them both free. They escape to Tiburon, South Carolina--a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. Taken in by an eccentric trio of black beekeeping sisters, Lily is introduced to their mesmerizing world of bees and honey, and the Black Madonna. This is a remarkable novel about divine female power, a story women will share and pass on to their daughters for years to come.

After you have read this book, please respond to the following questions:

1. How would you describe Lily's feelings about her mother? Did they change throughout the novel? How did hearing that her mother left her affect her perception of her mother?
2. Do you believe T-Ray's account of what happened when Lily's mother died?
3. Did your opinion of T-Ray change when August told Lily about how much he used to love her mother? Does Deborah's abandonment explain or excuse T-Ray?
4. Do you agree with Lily that people would rather die than forgive? Does she forgive her mother? T-Ray? Herself?
5. What do the bees mean to the story? What is "the secret life of bees?"
6. Do you think race was portrayed realistically in *The Secret Life of Bees*? What do you think Sue Monk Kidd was saying about race in this novel?
7. Why did Rosaleen spit on the men's shoes? What are the ways the characters in the novel confront injustice? How do you think we should deal with injustice? Do these kinds of prejudices still exist today?
8. What was your reaction to Lily's relationship with Zach? What do you think happened to them in the future?
9. Talk about the sisters. Who was your favorite? Do we all need a "wailing wall," like May? Why do you think June was cold toward Lily? How would you describe August?
10. What role did the Black Madonna play in their community? What do you think about the

legend of the Black Madonna?

11. Rate *The Secret Life of Bees* on a scale of 1 to 5. Be sure to explain why.
12. On the Internet or in a magazine or newspaper, find a piece of nonfiction that relates to any one of the themes in this book. Summarize the article you find and explain how it relates to *The Secret Life of Bees*. Print out the article and attach it to your work.
13. Several themes are developed in this book:
 - a. Women and Community
 - b. Race Relations
 - c. Coming of Age

Choose TWO of these themes and, referring to specific situations or events in the book, show how the author develops each of the themes you chose.

Part II: Free Choice Book 2017

Read any one of the following books or any book you have borrowed from the school library. When you have finished it, answer the questions about the book which are on a separate sheet.

Fiction

Son by Lois Lowry

We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves by Karen Fowler

The Moon and More by Sarah Dessen

Nantucket Blue by Leila Howland

The Impossible Knife of Memory by Laure Halse Anderson

The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd

Nectar in a Sieve by Kamala Markandaya

The Red Tent by Anita Diamant

Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe

Anna of Byzantium by Tracy Barrett

The Songs of Kings by Barry Unsworth

Snow Falling on Cedars by David Guterson

Jacob Have I Loved by Katherine Peterson

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood

Paper Towns by John Green

I, Tituba by Maryse Boucolon

Briar Rose by Jane Yolen

Name of the Star by Maureen Johnson

The Round House by Louise Erdrich

Eleanor and Park by Rainbow Rowell

Salvage the Bones by Jesmyn Ward

Brown Girl, Brownstones by Paule Marshall

Girl in Translation by Jean Kwok

Achilles by Elizabeth Cook

Non-Fiction

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens by Sean Covey

A Call to Action: Women, Religion, Violence and Power by Pres. Jimmy Carter

Beyond the Beautiful Forever by Katherine Boo

Freakonomics by Steven Levitt

Strength in What Remains by Tracy Kidder

The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson

Space Chronicles: Facing the Ultimate Frontier by Neil deGrasse

Half the Sky by Nicholas Kristoff

Gulp by Mary Roach Norton

The Girls of Atomic City by Denise Kiernan

Biography, Autobiography or Memoir

I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai

The Autobiography of Malcolm X

Everybody's Got Something by Robin Roberts

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder

Extraordinary Ordinary People by Condoleezza Rice

When I Was Puerto Rican by Esmeralda Santiago

FREE CHOICE BOOK

Your answers to these questions should be as complete as possible, in essay form and typed. Please use Times New Roman, 12 pt. type, 1" margins, black ink and double space.

- **If you are reporting on a book of FICTION, answer these questions:**
 1. What is the setting of the book? (When and where did it take place?)
 2. Name and identify (tell who they are) the main characters in the book.
 3. Choose ONE of the characters that you identified and describe in detail what she or he is like. Name one quality of this character that stands out to you and explain why. How did this person influence? What happened in the story?
 4. Make a list of FIVE important things that happened in the book.
 5. Choose ONE of the events you just listed and explain in detail why it was important.
 6. Name two reasons why you did or did not like this book.
 7. If you could speak to the author, what would you ask or say to him or her?

- **If you are reporting on a book of NONFICTION, answer these questions:**
 1. Give an overview of the book. Mention at least FIVE topics covered in the

book.

2. Of the five topics you just mentioned choose ONE and explain in detail what you learned.
3. Choose another ONE of the five topics covered in the book and explain in detail what you learned.
4. Choose another ONE of the five topics you read about in the book and explain in detail what you learned.
5. Do you consider this book to be worthwhile enough to recommend to another student? Explain why or why not.

● **If you are reporting on a BIOGRAPHY, AUTOBIOGRAPHY or MEMOIR answer these questions:**

1. Give an overview of the book. Name at least FIVE significant experiences or events that occurred in this person's life.
2. Of the five events you just named, which ONE do you think was most important? Explain fully.
3. Explain fully the importance of ANOTHER ONE of the five events or experiences you named in your answer to question # one.
4. Explain fully what you think is the impact this person had or is having on the world.
5. How do you see yourself being influenced by this person in your own life? What life lessons have you learned from her or him?

A note on plagiarism: plagiarism is copying the work of another person without proper acknowledgement. There are two parts in the definition: *copying* and the *absence of proper acknowledgement*. As a result, it gives an impression to an ordinary reader that the work is the original work of the author when in fact it was copied from some others' work. The idea underlying plagiarism is very simple: if you appropriate the work of another person, you should give proper recognition to that person.

Plagiarism covers “any other form of assessment.” It covers tests, homework, take-home examinations, assignments, projects, and other forms of coursework. Copying does not necessarily mean copying word for word. Closely paraphrasing or substantial copying with minor modifications (such as changing grammar, adding a few words or reversing active/passive voices) is still copying for this purpose. It is not so much the form of the copying that is important, but the substance of what is copied. It does not matter what the nature of the source is. It may be a book, an article, a page from the internet, or simply an assignment of another student. **If you are found to have plagiarized, you will receive a 0 on your assignment and parents/guardians will be contacted.**