

Reading Response Activities for English II (10th grade)- College Prep
The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

- I. All students must compose a typed, five paragraph essay in response to the following prompt:

In many works of literature, past events can affect, positively or negatively, the present actions, attitudes, or values of a character. In Sue Monk Kidd's *Secret Life of Bees*, a character must contend with some aspect of his/her past, either personal or societal. Write an essay in which you show how the character's relationship to the past contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole.

- II. Each student should choose **three** categories among the following ten options and respond thoroughly. Responses must be handwritten on notebook paper or drawn on white typing paper.

Math: Study mathematical facts pertaining to bees. Write a list of ten ways math can be used to determine how bees influence agriculture, or medicine, or nutrition, etc.

Cooking: Study recipes from South Carolina. Recipes including honey would be significant. Copy down three recipes to turn in and cook one to bring to class and share.

History: Create a visual timeline of the 1960s in the United States. Give twenty entries including war on poverty, President Kennedy, President Johnson, Vietnam, and events of the Civil Rights Movement.

Science: Study the life spans and actions of honeybees. Write a list of twenty of the most amazing, scientific aspects about bees.

Music: Study the music of the 1960s. Write a list of twenty of the most popular songs from the time period. Write a page to discuss how the music impacted the culture and how the culture impacted the music.

Art: Study the art of the 1960s. Write a list of twenty of the most popular artistic works from the time period. This could include visual art, plays, musicals, etc. Write a page to discuss how the art work impacted the culture and how the culture impacted these different types of art.

Psychology: Study mother/daughter and sister/sister relationships. Write a page discussing why Kidd chose to use these deep friendships and relationships to drive the plot of the novel using three specific relationships as examples.

Bible: How do the religious views presented in the novel line up with biblical truth? Write a page using three examples from the book, and discuss how biblical views are or are not embraced by the characters in the novel.

Interpersonal: Meet with two friends who are also reading *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd. Bring three in-depth, interview questions and interview one another about the story. Record responses with at least two direct quotes from each interviewee. Each interview response should be ½ to a full page of discussion.

Intrapersonal: Create a memory box like the one Lily treasures. Include five items and a paper explaining why you chose those five as significant items to you. Turn in the memory box with your written work.