

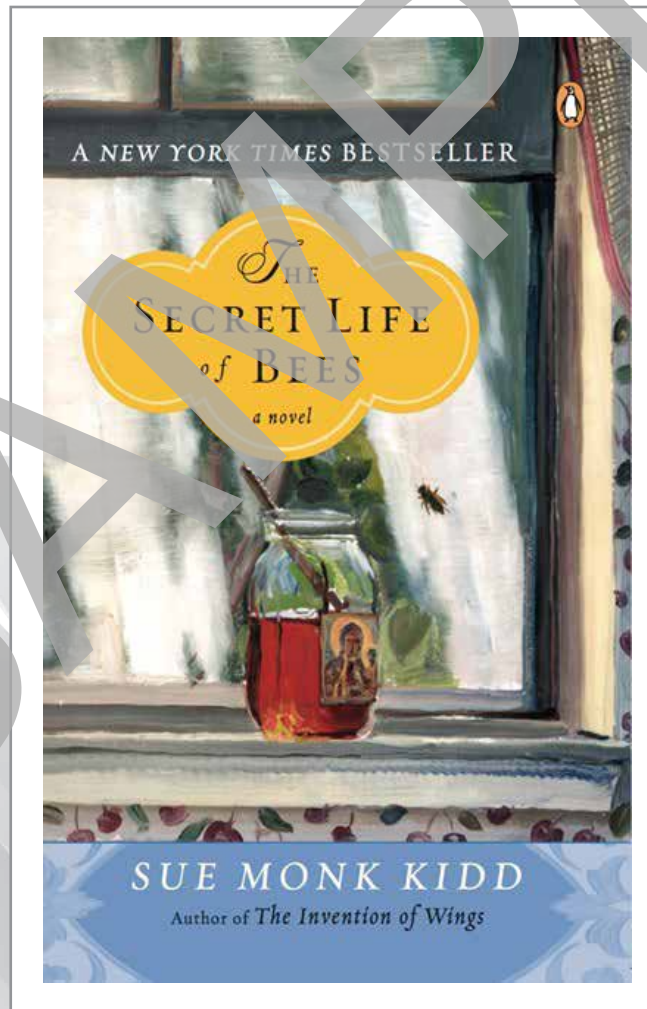


STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 9-12

# The Secret Life of Bees

Sue Monk Kidd



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

# The Secret Life of Bees

Sue Monk Kidd

## STUDENT PACKET

**NOTE:**

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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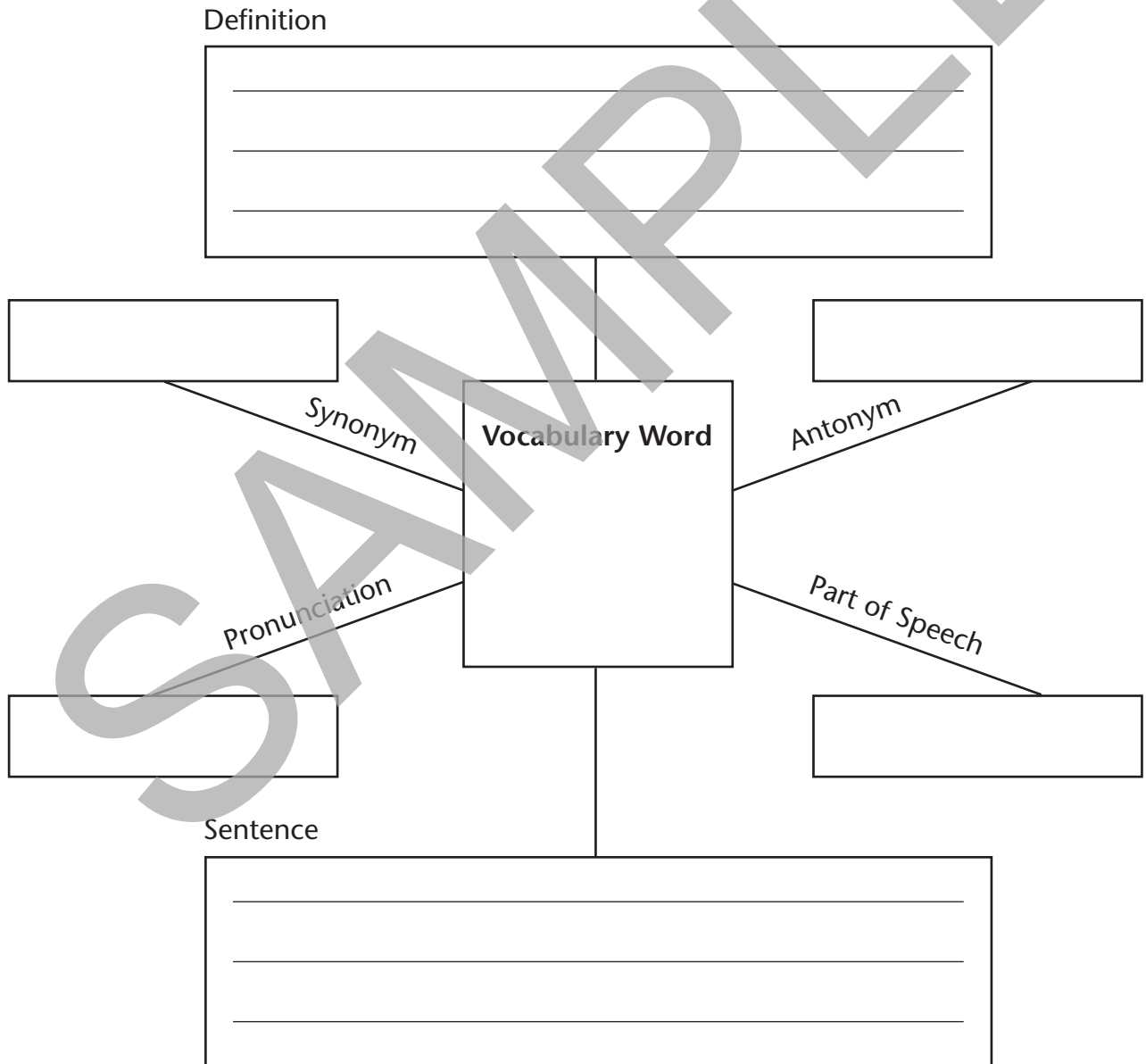
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Word Map

|  |  |   |                                |
|--|--|---|--------------------------------|
| presumptuous<br>paradise<br>insomniac<br>conjure | imbecile<br>philosophy<br>oblivious<br>motes | parsonage<br>decapitate<br>brazen<br>wrench | pious<br>blaspheme<br>anointed |
|--|--|---|--------------------------------|

**Directions:** Complete the following chart for five of the vocabulary words. Share your finished charts with the class.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. Use your answers in class discussions, for writing assignments, and to review for tests. Starred questions indicate thought or opinion questions.

## Chapter 1

1. Identify the protagonist/narrator and the setting.
2. When do the bees arrive in Lily's room? Why is the timing of their arrival significant to Lily? Why does she think they have come?
3. \*Quote Rosaleen's superstition about bees swarming. What does Lily think this means? Have you ever heard a superstition that you felt applied to you? If so, briefly explain why.
4. Who is Lily's father? How does she feel about him, and why doesn't she call him "Dad"? Give two examples of how he neglects or is cruel to her.
5. \*Briefly explain Lily's first and only memory of her mother. What caused her mother's death? Why does Lily blame herself? Explain whether you think Lily is actually responsible.
6. Why does Lily feel that she is not and never will be popular? What does she think will give her a chance to overcome this? Why does this fail to materialize?
7. Who is Rosaleen? How does Lily feel about her? What does Lily daydream about her?
8. \*How does T. Ray react when Lily asks about her mother? What mementoes of her does Lily have? Where does she keep them? Which one of these do you think is most important to Lily? Why?
9. \*Identify Mrs. Henry, and briefly explain her effect on Lily. Identify a teacher who has positively influenced your life, and explain why you chose this person.
10. Why does Lily go to the orchard after T. Ray ignores her when she mentions her birthday? What happens because of this?
11. What is T. Ray's favorite way to punish Lily? How does Rosaleen react to this?
12. Why does Rosaleen go to town? Why is she arrested?
13. \***Prediction:** What will happen to Lily and Rosaleen?

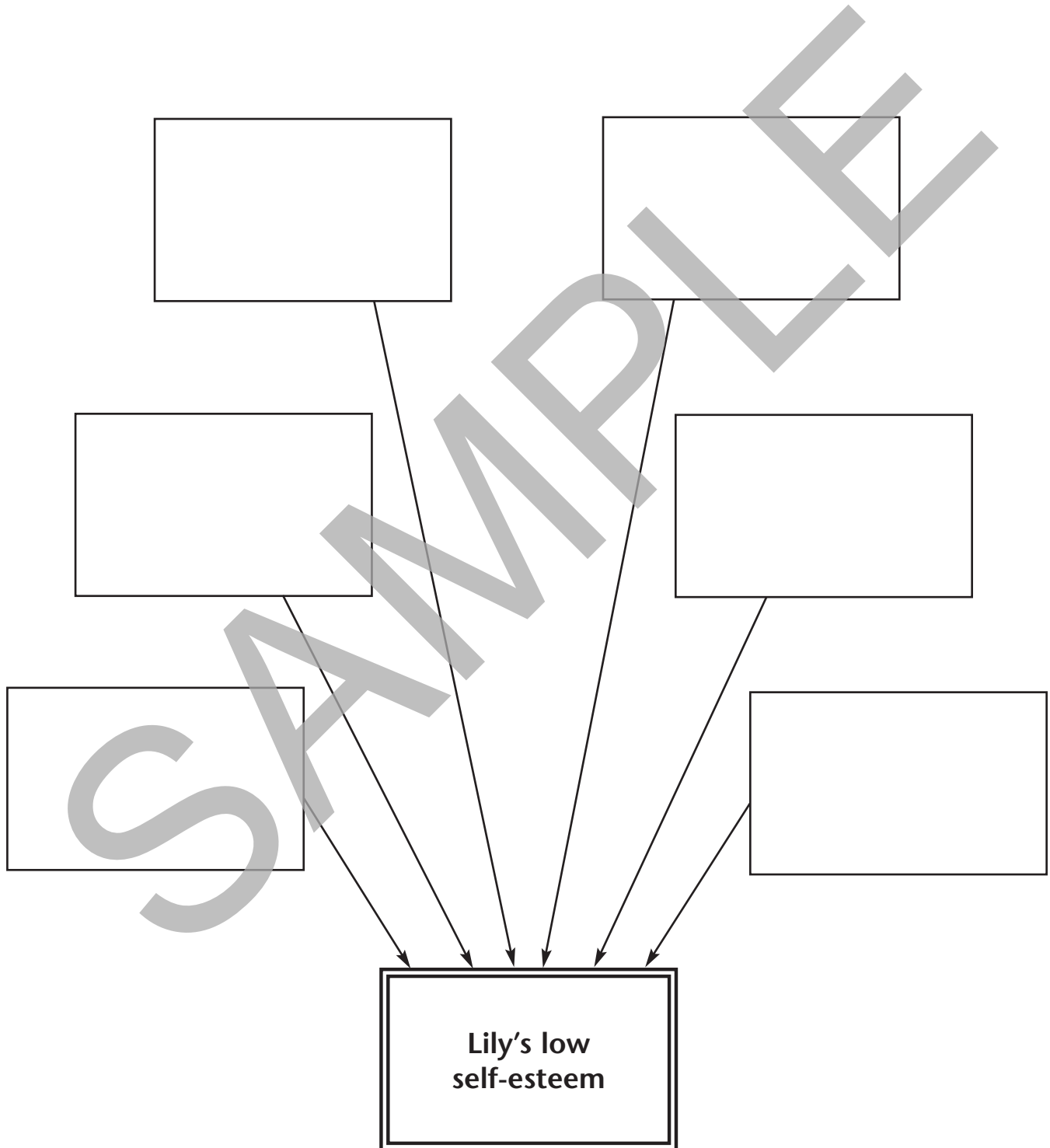
## Chapters 2–3

1. What happens to Rosaleen after she is arrested? Why doesn't Shoe protect her?
2. \*How does T. Ray deal with Lily after Rosaleen's arrest? What is Lily's primary concern? How does she react to T. Ray's threat? Why do you think she stands up to him?
3. What does T. Ray tell Lily about her mother? How does Lily respond?
4. Look up the word "epiphany," and correlate with Lily's hearing a voice saying, "Lily Melissa Owens, your jar is open" (p. 41).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Cause/Effect Map

**Directions:** In each box, list a cause for Lily's low self-esteem.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Conflict

The **conflict** of a story is the struggle between two people or two forces. There are three main types of conflict: person vs. person, person vs. nature or society, and person vs. self.

**Directions:** The characters experience some conflicts in the story. In the chart below, list the names of three major characters. In the space provided, list a conflict each character experiences. Then explain how each conflict is resolved in the story.

Character: \_\_\_\_\_

| Conflict | Resolution |
|----------|------------|
|          |            |
|          |            |

Character: \_\_\_\_\_

| Conflict | Resolution |
|----------|------------|
|          |            |
|          |            |

Character: \_\_\_\_\_

| Conflict | Resolution |
|----------|------------|
|          |            |
|          |            |