



 Prestwick House

Activity Pack

THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES

BY SUE MONK KIDD



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Item No. 303055
Written by Kathryn Mitchell

Name: _____

Date: _____

Pre-Reading**Predicting Events**

Objective: Predicting events in the novel based upon its title

Activity

The title of Sue Monk Kidd's novel is *The Secret Life of Bees*. Not only does the title mention a secret, but the idea that bees have a secret life is intriguing and mysterious. The cover shows the title in front of a painting of a jar of honey sitting in front of a window. Can you make a prediction based solely on this information?

Like other writers, Kidd did not title her novel carelessly. Why do you think she chose *The Secret Life of Bees* as the title? What is the secret, and what does it have to do with insects?

Write a paragraph in which you explain what you think the novel will be about, and how the bees (and their secret life) fit in.

Name: _____

Date: _____

During Reading: Chapter 2**Lost Poster**

Objective: Identifying character traits

Activity

Create a “LOST” poster for a character.

In Chapter Two, Lily runs away. She is tired of being mistreated by T. Ray, and she wants to know more about her mother. Using what you know about the characters so far, create a “LOST” poster for Lily as if you were T. Ray. Include the Lily’s name, some of her physical characteristics, where she was last seen, who is looking for her, and reward information. Be sure you create the poster the way T. Ray might have made it.

Name: _____

Date: _____

During Reading: Chapter 4**Journal Entry****Objective:** Writing a journal entry**Activity**

In Chapter Four, Lily and Rosaleen arrive at the home of the Boatwright sisters. With no real plan in mind, and only a vague sense that her mother had been there before, Lily boldly approaches the house, knocks on the door, and tells a complete stranger that she and Rosaleen “ran away from home and don’t have any place to go.” Lily proceeds to lie to August Boatwright about her identity and situation. When August agrees to let them stay, Lily feels an overwhelming sense of relief that August has accepted her lie as fact.

Imagine, at this point, that Lily decides to write in her journal and record all of the feelings and thoughts that she has been holding in. What do you think she would write?

Pretend that you are Lily, and write an entry in her journal that expresses her thoughts and feelings at this time.

Name: _____

Date: _____

During Reading: Chapters 1 – 7**Point of View**

Objectives: Recognizing the point of view used in the novel
Rewriting a portion of the chapter in a different point of view

Activity

The entire novel is told in the first-person point of view by the main character, Lily Owens. As such, the reader must rely solely on Lily's interpretation of events, even those for which she is just an observer.

Choose one of the scenes listed from Chapter One through Chapter Seven to rewrite from another character's point of view. Include the thoughts, feelings, and comments of the character who now narrates the scene. Try to make your new version as long or longer than the origin. Use the chart on the following page.

Name: _____

Date: _____

During Reading: Chapter 8

Advertising Techniques

Objective: Using common advertising techniques to market a product

Activity

In this chapter, Lily helps August paste labels on jars of honey. Lily pauses to study the label: "I admired the fancy gold scarf draped over her head, how it was decorated with red stars. Her eyes were mysterious and kind and her skin dark brown with a glow, darker than roast and looking a little like it had been buttered."

The novel makes no mention of any advertising August does for her product; for all the reader knows, people find out about her honey from others who buy it. Word of mouth is a great form of advertising, but a print ad could attract readers who are farther away.

For this activity, create a print ad for Black Madonna Honey that could appear in a magazine. Listed below are several methods used in advertising. After studying the different appeals in advertising, choose one appeal from the left column and one target audience from the right column, and create an ad to sell honey to that audience using that appeal.

Then, create your ad on a piece of paper. Use images and letters from magazines or draw your own. Be aware of the space your ad needs to fill, and try not to leave too much of the paper unused. You may use any combination of words and images in your advertisement.

APPEALS IN ADVERTISING

Snob Appeal: This appeal boosts the ego of the consumer. The ad tells the consumer, "You will be better than everyone else if you use this product."

Appeal to Authority: This appeal, also known as Celebrity Endorsement, uses a famous or highly respected person to sell the product. The ad suggests that the use of the product will make the consumer as wealthy, famous, talented, or beautiful as the spokesperson.

Plain Folks Appeal: This appeal, also known as Reverse Snob Appeal, speaks to the average person. For example, a clothing ad might appeal to women of average size, rather than runway-model-sized women.

Bandwagon Appeal: This technique appeals to consumers who want to fit in by doing what others are doing or by having what others have. It could convince a person to wear a certain type of clothing that is in fashion or even to use a certain type of shampoo people like and use.

Name: _____

Date: _____

During Reading: Chapter 9**Creating a Scrapbook**

Objective: Memorializing key events in the chapter with words and images

Activity

Chapter Nine is a pivotal chapter in many ways. The record heat requires that the hives be watered, and while watering the hive, Lily is stung. A hose fight breaks out between Lily and June, which ends up drawing them closer. Lily finds May making a “sweet trail” for the roaches to follow, just like her mother used to do. Zach gets arrested and spends five days in jail, and this seems to have an unusually harsh effect on May. All of these events change the characters involved in some way.

For this activity, imagine that you want to memorialize these events. They are so important, you want to have a record of them. Create a scrapbook of the events listed above. Use pictures from magazines or drawings of your own, make them look like photographs, attach them to the pages of your scrapbook, and create captions to explain the event. Your scrapbook must contain at least six pages and a front and a back cover.

Name: _____

Date: _____

During Reading: Chapter 13**Letter Writing**

Objective: Synthesizing character traits by adopting a persona from the novel
Recognizing the impact of certain events on different characters

Activity

During Chapter Thirteen, Lily tries to understand why her mother abandoned her. August comes into Lily's room with a box of Deborah's belongings and, with some hesitation, Lily looks at each item and listens to what August has to say. Slowly, Lily starts to understand and forgive her mother, but many of her questions go unanswered. Her mother's identity, to a great extent, will remain a mystery that Lily has to accept. What Lily could really use at this time is a letter from mother.

For this activity, assume the identity of Lily's mother, and write a letter to Lily explaining your actions. Include your feelings for Lily, why you left and why you left.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Wrap-Up

Last Will & Testament

Objective: Writing a will

Activity

The term Last Will & Testament refers to a document that is left behind by a person who has just passed away. This document is used to divide material possessions between family members and loved ones, and to protect the interests of the surviving family members. As the eldest of three sisters and the owner of a successful business, August would have a number of items to bequeath to her loved ones.

Using information that you have learned about August, assign items to the people in the list that follows. The items can be material possessions August owned or pieces of advice or wisdom August would give instead. Remember that you are August, and this document reflects your last wishes.

LAST WILL & TESTAMENT OF AUGUST BOATWRIGHT

I, August Boatwright, being of sound mind, leave the following advice and/or possessions to the people listed below:

1. June Boatwright

2. Zach Taylor

3. Lily Owens

Name: _____

Date: _____

Wrap-Up

Designing a Book Cover

Objectives: Responding to the novel
Creating a visual representation of theme

Activity

Design a new book cover for the novel. To complete this project, do the following things:

1. Fold one sheet of drawing or construction paper in half. On the front, draw or cut and paste pictures from magazines to design the new cover. Be sure your cover reflects a theme of the novel.
2. On the back, write a brief review of the novel. Include these elements:
 - a quoted excerpt from the novel that reveals the theme illustrated by the cover
 - a summary of one hundred words or fewer
 - a quote from a magazine or famous person complimenting the book