The Secret Life of Bees
Quick Writes

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Junior English
Mrs. Hess
Who is the real hero in the novel? What attributes does (s)he possess?

What is the role of hero in Lily’s world? Is it the same in your world?

How are the heroes (Sheroes as Maya Angelou coined it) rewarded?
Why is this novel relevant today?
In our culture, we are bombarded by other people trying to define us. How were the characters in the novel bombarded by others and how was their culture defining them?

And for you? How are you defined?
Based on the reading of the book, how did Lily develop her values and beliefs?

Is there evidence that they changed over the course of the work?

How do values change over time?

Cite examples from the novel.
What was the turning point for Lily that determined her individual pathway to adulthood?

Do you think that it is a common human experience to reach some pivotal moment on the path to adulthood?

Support with novel and life experience.
In the novel, there is a direct relationship between decisions and consequences. What are some of those relationships among the different characters?

How did the decisions, actions, and consequences vary depending on the different perspectives of the people involved?

Is that true in real life?
Based on the novel, what does it mean to be an *insider* or an *outsider*?

Cite examples to support your definition.
What criteria do you use to determine whether or not a book is good or bad?

How does this novel measure up to those criteria?

Defend or refute: This is or is not a chick book.

Illustrate with examples from the novel.
Quick Write #9

If the author were to write a sequel to the novel, which characters should she include and what should become of each?
Please explain how *The Secret Life of Bees* expresses the theme of Coming of Age.