



*The Secret Life
of Bees*
Quick Writes

Sue Monk Kidd
Junior English
Mrs. Hess

Quick Write #1

- 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?

Quick Write #4

- 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.

Quick Write #5

- 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.

- 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.