

Secret Life of Bees Vocabulary and Constructed Response questions.

**The Secret Life of Bees**

Vocabulary- Go through and highlight the words you do not know. Be honest.

**Due Dates: 10 words in sentence form will be due April 20<sup>th</sup>**

**10 words in sentence form will be due April 27<sup>th</sup>**

**10 words in a Frayer model will be due on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Frayer model MUST HAVE the word in the middle, a picture, connotative meaning, denotative meaning, and synonym or antonyms.**

Even if you know all of the words you have to do the above.

Chapter 1:

Presumptuous, 2  
Insomniac, 3  
Orneriness, 3  
Cowlick, 9  
Mercantile, 11  
Imbecile, 11  
Carousing, 12  
Smirking, 13  
Oblivious, 21  
Impersonation, 31  
Sashaying, 32  
Unperturbed, 32  
Recoil, 32

Chapter 2

Deliberate, 38  
Brazen, 38  
Beseeching, 40  
Pious, 44  
Blaspheme, 44

Chapter 3

Speculating, 63  
Consternation, 64

Chapter 4

Corrugated, 71  
Meander, 80

Chapter 5

Consolation, 82  
Ambrosia, 84  
Naïve, 84  
Unassuming, 85  
Bona Fide, 85  
Bristled, 86  
Revelation, 87  
Righteous, 87  
Indignation, 87  
Eclectic, 90  
Immunity, 92  
Etiquette, 92

Chapter 6

Ingenious, 104  
Deliverance, 107  
Solace, 109

Chapter 7

Incessantly, 120

Consignment, 125

Chapter 8

High-caliber, 137  
Kamikaze, 151

Chapter 9

Ambitious, 165  
Magnitude, 172  
Oblivious, 173  
Cunning, 173  
Crevice, 176

Chapter 10

Anguish, 199  
Vigil, 200  
Hovering, 202  
Ritual, 205  
Induction, 206  
Catacombs, 206  
Taffeta, 211

Chapter 11

Dillydallying, 214  
Industrious, 219  
Sauntered, 224  
Quiver, 225  
Taunting, 239

Chapter 14

Demoralized, 286  
Melancholy, 287  
Skittish, 291  
Resolve, 298  
Perpetually, 301

## *The Secret Life of Bees* Writing Prompts

### Chapter 1

1. On page 18, T. Ray asks Lily what she remembers about her mother's death. She was four at the time. What are your earliest memories? How early do we have the capacity to remember? Make sure to support your opinion.
2. Many people can remember a person or a place by scent. Lily remembers her mother's scent (6). Write about how you associate different smells with different people or places.
3. Many students can relate to an argument they might have had with their parent/guardian about clothing or felt peer pressure to have certain things. Write about an argument you have had and how does this relate to Lily's experiences?

### Chapter 2

1. What does T. Ray tell Lily about her mother? (39) How do you think she feels?
2. Why does Lily say "I was thinking how much older fourteen had made me. In the space of a few hours I'd become forty years old" (43). What occurred to make her feel this way? What makes children grow up too fast?
3. The Supremes song that Lily hears makes her think: "There's nothing like a song about lost love to remind you how everything precious can slip from the hinges where you've hung it so careful" (50). Have students write about a song that resonates with them, reminds them of something, etc.

### Chapter 5

"The world will give you that once in a while, a brief time-out; the boxing bell rings and you go to your corner, where somebody dabs mercy on your beat-up life" (82).

### Chapter 7

1. Lily's friendship with Zach is growing. Discuss how probable a friendship or a romance could be between a white girl and a black boy during this time period in the American South.
2. "Lily, I like you better than any girl I've ever known, but you have to understand, there are people who would kill boys like me for even looking at girls like you," Zach tells Lily on page 135. What does this comment say about the social climate of the times? What other stories do you know about where young lovers face prejudices from society?

### Chapter 8

1. On page 137, Lily decides if she could have picked a month to be named for, she'd have selected October and gives her reasons. Write a paragraph starting with, "Why I'd like to be named \_\_\_\_\_." Make sure to describe why you would like that specific month.

2. Write your own "tall bee tales," like the one on page 143.

#### Chapter 9

1. On page 170, Lily thinks: "Every human being on the face of the earth has a steel plate in his head, but if you lie down now and then and get still as you can, it will slide open like elevator doors, letting in all the secret thoughts that have been standing around so patiently, pushing the button for a ride to the top. The real troubles in life happen when those hidden doors stay closed for too long." What does Lily mean? What is she referring to in her life? How does this quote connect to your life?
2. On page 173, Lily asks May if she ever knew a Deborah Fontanel (Lily's mother). How is May's response a turning point in the story? How does Lily react to her answer? Why does May suddenly need to go to her wailing wall?
3. Lily tells Zach: "I'll put it in a story." She shares her thoughts: "It's something everybody wants, for someone to see the hurt done to them and set it down like it matters" (185). What prompted her to say this? How are events in society affecting her personal life?

#### Chapter 10

1. On page 209 Lily decides "everybody being colorless" would be better than trying to have whites get along with blacks." At what age do children become aware of differences? Of races?

#### Chapter 11

1. How is Zach changing? Why is he changing? (216)
2. What is Mary Day? (220) How do the Boatwright sisters celebrate it and what is its significance in the novel?
3. What does Zach mean when he tells Lily: "That jail cell is gonna make me earn grades higher than I ever got" (230).

#### Chapter 12

1. When Lily learns the truth about her mother, she thinks, "Knowing can be a curse on a person's life. I'd traded in a pack of lies for a pack of truth..." (255). How is she coping with this knowledge? What is she feeling now?

#### Chapter 13

1. August gives Lily some things she had kept that belonged to Lily's mother. Among them is a mirror, a hairbrush, and a volume of William Blake's poems. Lily finds a poem that her mother had underlined. How does seeing something that belonged to a relative help a person know that relative?
2. How does seeing the photograph of her mother holding her make Lily feel? (275) How is this a sign to Lily?

#### Chapter 14

1. What is the significance of Rosaleen getting a voting card? (281)
2. What is Zach's news? (283) How probable is it this would have occurred?
3. What does August mean when she tells Lily she has to "find a mother inside yourself" (288). What are the characteristics August tells Lily she needs?
4. Why does T. Ray call Lily "Deborah"? (294) What has happened to him?
5. What does Lily mean when she says she believes in the "goodness of imagination"? (300)