

9th Grade Honors ELA

Summer Reading 2026 — *The Secret Life of Bees* (Sue Monk Kidd)

— Due: First Day of School

- **Read** the entire novel [*The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd](#).

→ Or, as an alternative: [*Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott](#) (students can combine chapters as there are 47 in total)

- **Submit 2-3 annotated passages** per chapter (quote + 2–3 sentence comment for each: significance, device, or connection to theme. Must be handwritten and legible).
- **Submit One-Pager (Analytical) — Printed, Handcrafted (no digital submissions)**

Purpose: Make a clear literary claim (theme or interpretive statement) about *The Secret Life of Bees* and support it with concentrated evidence and visual choices. Requirements:

1. **Literary Claim:** Write a single, clear thematic statement or interpretive claim (1–2 sentences) prominently on the page.
2. **Evidence:** Include 10 distinct lines of textual evidence (quoted phrases or short citations) from the novel. Each line must be labeled with a brief note (1–2 words) explaining what it supports (e.g., “motherhood,” “shame,” “community”).
3. **Visuals:** Add hand-drawn or cut-and-paste images that reinforce your claim and evidence (no printed digital collages).
4. **Color & Mood:** Use color intentionally—your palette must support the mood or tone you claim (write a 1–2 sentence caption explaining your color choices).
5. **Layout & Clarity:** All content must fit on a single 8.5x11 sheet, be legible, and well-organized (title, claim, evidence, visuals, color caption).
6. **Citation:** Include page numbers for each quoted line.
7. **Originality:** Must be your own work and created on paper—no photos of digital designs accepted. You may photograph your finished one-pager to upload if requested.

Rubric Chart — The Secret Life of Bees Summer Packet

Total Points: 100

Criteria	Exemplary	Proficient	Developing	Beginning	Points Available
Annotations (30)	10+ meaningful annotations; each identifies device/meaning, links quote to theme, includes accurate page #s; insights beyond summary	7–9 solid annotations; most show device/meaning and connection to theme; page #s present	4–6 basic annotations; mainly summary with limited analysis; page #s may be inconsistent	Fewer than 4 annotations or annotations lack textual connection/page citations	30
Literary Claim & Insight (One-Pager) (20)	Clear, original, compelling thematic claim prominent on page; sophisticated interpretation	Clear claim, supported by evidence; solid interpretation	Claim present but vague or only partially supported	Claim missing or unrelated to evidence	20

Textual Evidence & Labels (One-Pager) (20)	All 10 distinct, accurately transcribed quotations with correct page numbers; each has concise accurate 1–2 word label	8–9 accurate quotations with page numbers; most labels correct	5–7 quotations; some inaccuracies or missing page numbers; labels weak/missing	Fewer than 5 quotations, many inaccuracies, or no page numbers/labels	20
Visuals & Color Use (One-Pager) (15)	Handcrafted visuals strongly reinforce claim; color palette intentionally supports mood/tone; clear 1–2 sentence caption explaining color choices	Visuals relevant and mostly handcrafted; color supports mood; caption present	Visuals present but weakly connected to claim; color choice unclear or caption vague	Visuals absent or primarily digital/printed; color use not purposeful; no caption	15
Layout, Legibility & Originality (One-Pager) (15)	Clean, well-organized layout; handwriting legible; creative presentation enhances meaning	Organized and legible with minor layout issues; original effort evident	Some organization problems; legibility issues; limited originality	Disorganized or illegible; little to no original effort	15
TOTAL					100

