

THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES—by Sue Monk Kidd

Discussion Questions

Note: Since there are already some excellent questions in the back of the book, only four more were added. If you happen to have an edition of the book without questions in the back, here is a link where you can obtain them:

http://us.penguin.com/static/rguides/us/secret_life_bees.html

(Scroll down to the bottom of the page).

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

1. On pages 140-141, August refers to the Black Madonna as she says to Lily, “You see, everybody needs a God who looks like them, Lily.” Do you agree that everybody needs a God who looks like them? How do you picture the members of the Blessed Trinity? How do you picture Mary?
2. How did you feel about May’s death? What did you think about the four day vigil with May in her coffin in the living room? Do you think seeing the body “helps things to sink in better?” (page 200)
3. Which character did you like the best and why? Which character did you like the least? Do you identify with any of the characters?
4. What struck you the most about reading a book set in 1964 in South Carolina? How much progress have we made today to eliminate racism?