

## Summer Reading Questions Grade 7



**Active Reading:** Active reading means actively engaging with the material you read. For instance, when you come across words you do not know, circle them in your book; when you come across something that confuses you, put a question mark in the margin; when you come across something funny, put a smiley face in the margin; or, when you come across an important detail, underline the sentence. You may also choose to use exclamation points when something is exciting or surprising. You are encouraged to write notes and questions in your book as well.

**Journal Directions:** As you complete your summer reading, please keep a journal. In this journal you should record your ideas, impressions, questions, and any other personal reactions to the reading. You may also choose to record page numbers or quotes referring to your active reading. For example, if you circled a word you do not know, you may decide to record it, define it, and use it in a new sentence to help you remember what it means.

For each book, a list of questions is provided. As you read, answer these questions in your journal. Your journals will be collected on the first day of school if you wish to turn them in.

Ryan White: My Own Story  
By: Ryan White and Ann Marie Cunningham



**Pre-Reading:**

- 1.) Understanding the Setting: HIV (Human Immune Deficiency Virus) is the beginning stage of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). The virus attacks the immune system and eventually kills the person. Before you begin reading Ryan White, research AIDS. Write a summary on what you learn about AIDS.

(<http://www.aids.gov>; <http://www.aids.org>; <http://kidshealth.org/parent/infections/std/hiv.html>)

**Reading Questions:**

- 2.) This story is an autobiography. An autobiography is a story written by the author about his or her own life. How do you think this affects the nature of this story? How would the story be different if it was written by somebody else (biography)?
- 3.) Describe a time when you were bullied or when you witnessed bullying. How did you, or the person being bullied, feel? What did you do to overcome the situation? Looking back at the incident, would you do anything differently? What? Why?
- 4.) Ryan White is discriminated against when he contracts HIV. In what ways is he discriminated against? Do you think people were within their rights, or do you think their reaction was wrong?
- 5.) Although Ryan received much attention from celebrities, do you think Ryan was really happy in spite of the attention? Why? Would you want this type of fame? Why or why not?
- 6.) Do you think Ryan would have been forced out of school? Why or why not?
- 7.) This book was written in the 1980's, when people did not know much about HIV/AIDS. Today, the HIV/AIDS virus is still a serious threat. Do you think people would react differently to Ryan White if he was a child in the year 2010 and contracted AIDS? Explain your response.
- 8.) In what ways has your attitude about HIV/AIDS changed from reading this book? How do you think you would respond if you met some with this virus?

# The Secret Life of Bees

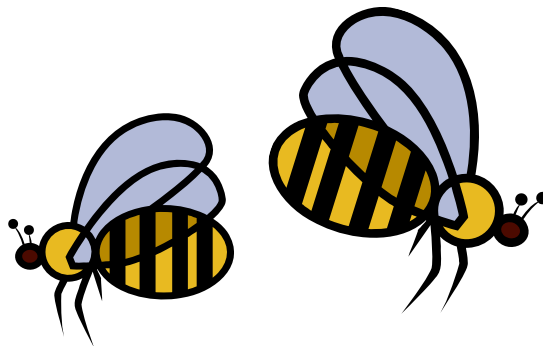
By: Sue Monk Kidd

## Pre-Reading:

- 1.) Understanding the Setting: What was life in the South like in 1964? Was life different for black people and white people? Why?

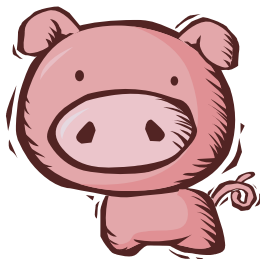
## Reading Questions:

- 2.) Were you surprised to learn that T. Ray used to be different, that he once truly loved Deborah? How do you think Deborah's leaving affected him? Did it shed any light on why T. Ray was so cruel and abusive to Lily?
- 3.) Who is the queen bee in this story?
- 4.) Lily's relationship with her deceased mother is complex, ranging from guilt, to idealization, to hatred, to acceptance. What happens to Lily when she discovers her mother once abandoned her? Was it harder for Lily to forgive her mother or herself?
- 5.) May built a wailing wall to help her come to terms with the pain she felt inside. Even though we don't have May's "condition," do we also need private and public "rituals," like wailing walls, to help us deal with our grief and suffering? What happens if you keep your feelings inside and never let them out?
- 6.) How would you describe Lily and Zach's relationship? What drew them together? Could you appreciate how taboo their love was? Could they ever be together?
- 7.) Think about what would happen in a sequel to The Secret Life of Bees. Does Lily ever see her father again? What job does she have? What happens with Lily and Zach? What happens to the "house of mothers?"
- 8.) Rate the book in terms of stars. One star would be a poor rating; five stars would mean you liked the book very much. Why did you rate the book the way you did? Provide specific examples to support your statements.



# A Day No Pigs Would Die

By: Robert Peck



## Pre-Reading:

- 1.) Understanding the Setting: Who were the Shakers? What were the Shakers known for? Are there still Shakers today? Research the Shakers and write a summary about what you learn about Shaker religion and lifestyle.

## Reading Questions:

- 2.) A character's language tells the reader a great deal about that individual, his environment, and his values. The language in chapter one is very frank and direct, but it is probably the way a twelve-year-old boy living in this place and time expressed himself. Record two examples of this type of speech. Be sure to use quotation marks and be sure to record page numbers. At the end of the novel does Rob's language change?
- 3.) The story is told in first person point of view, which means that the reader sees the world through Rob's eyes; Rob is telling us the story of his childhood. Often Rob makes comparisons in order to express his feelings about something (example: a light snow looks like "the way Mama would flour her cake board"). Find three examples in the novel of interesting comparisons of unlike things. Be sure to use quotation marks and be sure to record page numbers.
- 4.) Pinky is Rob's first "possession." Have you ever owned and then lost something important to you? How did you feel after it was gone? Did you change because of your loss?
- 5.) Describe Rob's relationship with Pinky. How did Rob react when he first got Pinky? How did Rob feel about Pinky's death?
- 6.) Like Rob at the Rutland Fair, have you ever had to sacrifice something you really wanted to do something you knew you had to do? What are some sacrifices you have had to make in your life? How did these sacrifices make you feel?
- 7.) Because of the events in the novel, Rob has to grow up quickly and begin to act in an *adult* manner. In what way has Rob become a "man?" What values has Rob developed by the end of the novel? Are Rob's values different from your own? If so, how?