

TEXT ADOPTION REQUEST

Instructional Materials Committee

Text Title: *The Secret Life of Bees*

Author: **Sue Monk Kidd**

Publisher: **Penguin Publishing Group**

Copyright Date: **2003**

Course Title and Grade Level: **English, 12th Grade**

This text is: New **X**

Replacing

(Title)

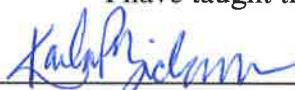
Number of Copies Needed: **90**

Unit Price: **\$6.68**

This text is intended for use: **2015-16**

I have taken the following steps to determine the suitability of the above text:

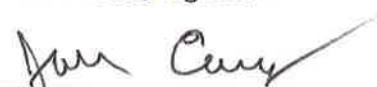
- (Yes) 1. I have read it and found that it meets the criteria of the district Instructional Materials Committee, including criteria for the elimination of sex bias. This is a mandatory step:
The book is set in the South, during the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement. The protagonist is female, as are most of the other major characters. The narrator is a young white child who is helped (and loved) by some strong black women.
- (Yes) 2. I have compared it with these other available texts:
The unused texts are *Canterbury Tales* and *Frankenstein*; we are reading *Paradise Lost* and *Macbeth*. I would like to add a book that students will be able to read and understand on their own, and one that they will enjoy reading.
- (Yes) 3. I have compared review of it with review of these other available texts:
This book was on the NYT Best Seller List and has received numerous book awards.
- (Yes) 4. I have evaluated the reading level and found it averages about grade:
This novel is written at 11+ grade level (on the Frye Readability Scale).
- (Yes) 5. I have used the text on a trial basis, per district policy and the Curriculum Director's approval:
I have taught this in Eng 12 at other high schools. My students loved it!



Text Selector Signature

9-21-15

Date



Principal or Dept. Head

9.25-15

Date

Instructional Material Committee

Date

Board of Directors Approval

Date

Instructional Materials Committee Evaluation Form

Evaluated By: **Karla Bickmore**

Date: **9/19/15**

Department: **English**

School: **High School**

Subject Area: **English 12**

Title: *The Secret Life of Bees*

Author: **Sue Kidd Monk**

Publisher: **Penguin Publishing Group**

Copyright Date: **2003**

Reading Level (use Fry Readability Graph): **11+ grade**

1. Will this material be the basic text or will it supplement the basic text? If it is supplementary, what is your basic text?

Supplementary. The text is *The Prentice Hall Literature* textbook which contains short stories, plays, and poetry. There are currently no novels for English 12. They read the epic poem *Paradise Lost* and a Shakespeare play. The school also owns *Frankenstein*. I would really like to purchase a book that students can read and understand on their own. I have taught this book at other schools and students love it.

2. How did you become aware of this material? (Professional journals, salesman, publisher's catalog, know someone who has used it, used material before, etc.)

It was a novel at taught at another high school.

3. What other materials did you consider?

The Grapes of Wrath, however, students read *Of Mice and Men* in Honors 10 and in English 11, and that is sufficient Steinbeck.

4. In what ways is this material better than the other materials? (Text format, organization content, unbiased content concerning minorities and women, teacher's guide, etc.)

This is a very well written novel. The characters and the plot engage students while at the same time exposing them to language that is beautiful. There are a lot of literary devices for teaching/understanding symbolism, metaphor, irony, tone, motif, etc. In addition there are historical and political allusions to the Civil Rights Movement. The complex characters are both minority and female and are depicted in a positive and realistic way.

5. How does this material fit the students learning objectives for the subject area?

Currently all the books in the English 12 curriculum are by white, male authors, British authors from pre-18th century. I would like to introduce a book by a contemporary female author, and an American, whose book contains characters who are African American.

Lives of Bees

6. How does this material ensure continuity with the District's overall program?

This is a book of literary merit. I would argue that we need more books by female authors, more books by authors of color, and more books from a wide variety of time periods and genres.

7. Bias content check list:

Bias Content	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A
1. Presents more than one viewpoint of controversial issues	X				
2. Presents minorities realistically	X				
3. Includes contributions of minority authors					X
4. Presents non-stereotypical models	X				
5. Facilitates the sharing of cultural differences	X				
6. Promotes the positive nature of differences	X				
7. Includes contributions/inventions/discoveries of minorities	X				
8. Includes contributions/inventions/discoveries of women	X				
9. Presents minorities in a manner that promotes ethnic pride	X				
10. Facilities environment that is open to discovery	X				