**The Secret Life of Bees**

Comprehension Questions: Chapter 1

1. What does the narrator (Lily) seem to long for at the very start of the novel?

2. What year did the bees come?

3. Who is Rosaleen?

4. Who is T Ray?

5. What does the name T Ray suggest about the relationship between Lily and T Ray?

6. How old was Lily when her mother died?

7. How did Lily’s mother die?

8. What does Lily hope to get from charm school? What really happened?

9. Describe the relationship between Lily and Rosaleen.

10. What items does Lily find in the attic?

11. What dreams does Lily have for her future? Who influenced these dreams?

12. What on television has Rosaleen so interested?

13. What is the *Martha White* punishment?

14. Why does Rosaleen go into town on the 4th of July?

15. What does Rosaleen take from the church?

16. Why does Rosaleen get arrested?

Chapter 2 Study Questions

1. Who caused Rosaleen’s head injury and why?

2. Describe the exchange between Lily and T Ray the evening after he picked her up from jail.

3. Identify and explain this figure of speech: “like I was making an inner tube that might keep me afloat.”

4. Lily describes herself as having “such a moment right then….” And then goes on to say she heard a voice say “Lily Melissa Owens, your jar is open.” Explain the significance of this revelation.

5. How was Lily able to get into Rosaleen’s hospital room undetected?

6. Why was Lily so insistent that Rosaleen leave the hospital?

7. Where does Lily plan to go once she and Rosaleen leave the hospital?

8. When Lily shows Rosaleen the picture that says Tiburon, S. Carolina on it, what does Rosaleen comment on?

9. In Lily’s desperate search for Rosaleen, she notices a tree. What connection does she make between that tree and life?

10. Define the word “Eprigram.” If you don’t know what it means, look it up.

11. Explain the how the Epigram at the beginning of Chapter 2 relates to what happens in Chapter 2.

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