

**Summer Reading Requirements
English 9 ~ Regents**

Mandatory text

To Kill a Mockingbird

AND

Choose ONE (1) of the following in addition to mandatory text:

Wish You Well by David Baldacci

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom



Summer Reading Study/Focus Guide

Consider the following questions/prompts as you read the particular text:

Wish You Well

“Lou would always see herself as Jack Cardinal’s daughter” is a quote from the very first chapter of the book. Explain how this perception of herself changes over the course of the book. How might the statement change by the end of the book and why?

The Secret Life of Bees

The character August says, “You have to find a mother inside yourself. We all do. Even if we already have a mother, we still have to find this part of ourselves inside.” Explain how this quote applies to Lily in the book. Then, explain how it is true for you.

The Five People You Meet in Heaven

The protagonist meets five people in heaven. Based on his experiences and interactions, what might each person signify or symbolize? Begin first with who each person is, then seek to explain the broader meaning of each. What might his experiences suggest are the five important interactions or type of people we all encounter in life?

To Kill a Mockingbird

I. Objective Questions (Literal Level)

Be able to answer objective questions (multiple choice, true false, matching, etc.) on the following elements of the text:

Plot Character Setting

II. Focus Questions (Interpretive Level)

Prepare to respond to questions similar to the following:

- How does the book's division (two main parts) reflect its purpose?
- How do Scout and Jem change (beyond physically) over the course of the book? Consider perceptions, maturity, self-discipline, awareness of others.
- How are Arthur "Boo" Radley and Tom Robinson alike?
- What kind of parent is Atticus Finch?
- What kind of symbols exist in the book? (Flowers? The fire? A mockingbird? The snow? Etc.)
- Explain the various levels of "society" in Maycomb.
- How does the perception of Arthur Radley change over the book's course?

III. Big Questions (Evaluative/Critical Level)

Be able to articulate the meaning and significance of the title.

Be able to name some of Atticus' sayings and apply them to the events of the book and your own life.

