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Prof. Rosselli

English 85: *The Secret Life of Bees*

23 May 2011

Portfolio: Journal and Summary Assignments
Headings for Journal Assignments: Each assignment must be typed (double spaced) on a new page and must be centered and labeled according to the assignment; each assignment should be organized chronologically and be placed in the left pocket of your folder.

Journal Assignment 1: Characters

Journal Assignment 2: Keepsake and Letter to Lily

Journal Assignment 3: Personal Ritual or Practices for dealing with Suffering and Loss

Headings for Summaries: Each assignment must be typed (double spaced) on a new page and must be centered and labeled according to the assignment; each assignment should be organized chronologically and be placed in the binder portion of the folder or in the right pocket of the folder.

Summary Assignment 1: pages 82-86
(This is the only summary that may be submitted in handwriting)

Summary Assignment 2: pages 146-152

Summary Assignment 3: pages 207-213
One day, while tending the bees, August shares her philosophy of life with Lily. The hardest part of living is sorting out the important from the not-so-important matters; for example, August relented and allowed May to paint the house a god-awful pink because it pleased May. Allowing May’s unusual color choice was worth the effort because it brought May so much joy. Lily also learns that, during heat spells, the bees band together to cool the hive by fanning the air with their wings.

Lily learns about the complex, “secret” life of the bees. The efficient running of the hive depends on a coordinated group dynamic. Each of the thousands of bees has a specific duty to perform to assure the survival of the queen and the hive. Some hunt for nectar, some clean the hive, some tend the nursery, and some take care of the queen. August also teaches Lily how to approach the bees without alarming them and harming herself. Lily learns to “send them love.”

Notice that I have included some examples to support statements in the summary but not much detail (I have underlined them in the summaries). I also have included phrases or words from the book that I have put in quotations (I have underlined them in the second summary). It’s okay to quote from the novel as long as they’re brief. Long quotes are not used in a summary.