



Annotation Guide for Secret Life of Bees



*** Look for literary terms found on your Charlie Brown Lit Terms Sheet

Characterization:

1. Personal appearance
2. Character's actions
3. Characters thoughts
4. Author's comments
5. What other characters say about him/her

Settings:

1. Years, dates, months
2. Places (towns, homes, etc)
3. Historical Context

Themes:

1. Importance of Storytelling
2. Racism & Racial Intolerance
 - a. Tolerance & love over power and racism
3. Power of the Female Community
 - a. God as Mother
4. Guilt & Redemption
5. The need for parental love (or the love of a family)

Symbols:

1. Photographs
2. Bees/Beehives
3. Black Mary
4. Character Names

Motifs:

1. Epigraphs – parallel the chapter (foreshadows what's to come)
2. The "Divine Feminine"
 - a. Mothers
 - b. Queen Bee