

English 11 Summer Reading Requirements

You will read two novels over the course of the summer break, *True Grit* by Charles Portis and *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd. I know the question you are dying to ask: “Will there be any writing involved?”

Oh, yeah.

For *True Grit* you will respond to online discussion prompts on Turnitin.com (the class ID is **3820785**, and the registration password is “mmarquart”). For each chapter grouping (since the novel does not have numbered chapters, I strongly suggest you number them in your book), you will have the opportunity to ask and answer questions. **You must respond to at least 5 of the postings with a well-written and thoughtful replies consisting of approximately 150-200 words with textual citation(s).**

All responses are due no later than July 1. You will receive points for each initial response; follow-up responses may receive more points, depending on how thorough they are.

For *The Secret Life of Bees* you will choose one of the following writing prompts to explore and create a well thought out and descriptive piece that is **typed and at least 500 words in length.**

1. Write a diary of one of the characters. Tell his/her secret thoughts, motivations, history, ideas for the future, and thoughts about others. For example, write Deborah’s diary explaining what really happened the day she died. You may write more than one diary entry.
2. Pretend you’re one of the characters. It’s 20 years from the end of the novel. Write a letter to another character in the book about what you’ve been doing with your life. For example, does Lily ever see her father again?

In addition to writing one of the above, you will respond to the following:

1. Lily Owens cherishes a box with a few remaining things that belonged to her mother. Place a few of your favorite things, or things that represent who you are (3-5 things), in a box you have decorated as a keepsake.

You will present your box and the items you’ve placed inside in class the first day of school. Your written piece is also due the first day of school.