
ENGLISH 10-2 COURSE NOVEL CHOICES (choose one)

THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES by Sue Monk Kidd

Lily Owens lives on a farm in South Carolina. The death of her mother, when Lily was four, has devastated and forever shaped her life. Her housekeeper, Rosaleen, cares for Lily, but the setting of the novel during 1964 (Civil Rights era) reveals the racial violence that explodes during that period. Rosaleen is a victim of this violence, causing the two to leave town in search of information about Lily's mother. The story reveals their search for identity and a sense of belonging during this difficult time.

DEATHWATCH by Robb White

Deathwatch is a fast-paced story. It has as a central issue a life and death struggle between two men "the hunter and the hunted" set in the burning heat of the desert. The characters are believable and interesting; their struggle proves even more exciting because they must compete not only against each other, but they must survive the dangers of the desert.

SPEAK by Laurie Halse Anderson

Speak is a mature novel about a grade nine student attempting to deal with the trauma of rape. Melinda Sordino, the main character, is struggling with depression and fitting into high school. Confronting her fears allows Melinda to stand up for the injustice she has experienced. The narrator takes the reader on a difficult but inspirational journey.

WAITING FOR THE RAIN by Sheila Gordon

Waiting for the Rain, published in 1987, is set in South Africa during the apartheid era. The main character is a black boy whose best friend is white. The black boy wants to learn and attend school; the white boy wants to live on the farm. The black boy is denied the rights of his white friend because of colour. As time passes, injustice in society becomes more important in the lives of these two boys. The simple story questions accepted ways of their society and looks for new answers. The novel is part of the protest literature of that era, but it is also about innocence and awareness as well as issues of understanding and accepting differences.

Film Choices (choose one):

- *A Knight's Tale* (2001)
- *The Secret Life of Bees* (2008)
- *October Sky* (1999)
- *Searching for Bobby Fischer* (1993)
- *The Legend of Bagger Vance* (2000)
- *The Blind Side* (2009)
- *The Emperor's Club* (2002)
- *Akeelah and the Bee* (2006)