

FUMC ESL 10-4-2021 High Intermediate and Advanced Lesson

Introduce yourself. Tell where you are from and where you live now. Tell what insect you are most afraid of and which insect you are least afraid of.

Many of you enjoyed reading *The Light Between Oceans* this summer and requested another novel. So today, we'll begin *The Secret Life of Bees*. Like, the previous novel, I will be condensing this one to make it a little shorter and a little easier to understand. Here is the first installment.

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

At night, I would lie in bed and watch the bees squeeze through the cracks of my bedroom wall and fly circles around the room, making that propeller sound ZZZZZZZZZ. The way those bees flew, not even looking for a flower, just flying for the feel of the wind, cracked my heart.

Discuss:

The person telling this story is a young girl named Lily. How does Lily feel about the bees? Is she afraid of them? What is it about the way the bees fly that Lily likes?

The bees came the summer of 1964, the summer I turned fourteen and my life went spinning off into a whole new orbit, and I mean a WHOLE NEW ORBIT. Looking back on it now, I want to say the bees were sent to me. I want to say they showed up like the angel Gabriel appearing to the Virgin Mary, setting events in motion I could never have guessed. I know it is presumptuous to compare my small life to Virgin Mary's, but I have reason to believe she wouldn't mind. I'll get to that later. Right now it's enough to say that despite everything that happened that summer, I remain tender toward bees.

Discuss:

1. We talk about things **spinning out of control**. That means things are getting worse and we can't stop it. EX: Her alcoholism is spinning out of control. She needs help. But Lily says her life spun into a **whole new orbit**. If the Earth spun into a new orbit, it would be because something powerful happened, like a meteor strike and nothing would ever be the same again. This is what Lily means. Powerful changes are coming to her life and her life will not be the same ever again. Have you had something happen in your life that led to really big changes?
2. What does Lily mean when she says the bees were sent to her? Explain the comparison with the angel Gabriel and the Virgin Mary.
3. What does *presumptuous* mean?
4. What does Lily mean when she says, "I remain tender toward bees"?

July 1, 1964, I lay in bed, waiting for the bees to show up, thinking of what Rosaleen had said when I told her about the bees nightly visitation. "Bees swarm before death," she'd said.

Rosaleen had worked for us since my mother died. My daddy, who I called T. Ray, because "Daddy" never fit, had pulled her out of the peach orchard, where she'd worked picking his peaches. She had a big round face and a body that sloped out from her neck like a tent. She was so black that night seemed to seep from her skin. She lived alone in a little house tucked back in the woods, not far from us. She came every day to cook, clean and be my stand-in

mother. Rosaleen had never had a child herself, so for the last ten years I'd been her guinea pig.

Discuss:

1. *What does "swarm" mean?*
2. *What does Rosaleen think will happen when bees swarm?*
3. *Why does Lily call her daddy, "T.Ray" instead of "Daddy"?*
4. *Who is Rosaleen?*
5. *What did Rosaleen do every day?*
6. *Where had Rosaleen worked before T. Ray had her take care of Lily?*
7. *What does "a little house tucked back into the woods," mean?*
8. *What does Lily mean when she said she was Rosaleen's "guinea pig"?*

"Bees swarm before death." Rosaleen was full of crazy ideas that I usually ignored. But I lay thinking about this one, wondering if the bees had come with my death in mind. Honestly, I wasn't that disturbed by the idea of dying. Every one of those bees could have descended on me like a flock of angels and stung me till I died, and it wouldn't have been the worst thing to happen. People who think dying is the worst thing don't know a thing about life.

Discuss:

How does Lily feel about dying?

Read the last sentence of the paragraph. What kind of life do you think Lily has had since her mother died?

GRAMMAR: INFINITIVES

Infinitives are verbs preceded by TO. They do not function as verbs in the sentence. EX: I want **to listen** to some music. The doctor wants me **to stay** home until I don't have fever. They decided **to cancel** the festival because of Covid.

In some cases, we use the infinitive without TO.

Examples:

I must go now. NOT I must to go now.

I made them give me my money back. NOT I made them to give me my money back.

I didn't see you come in. NOT I didn't see you to come in.

Read the sentences below and tell if you should or should not use TO in front of the infinitive.

1. We heard him ____ say he was leaving early.
2. She lets her children _____ stay up late.
3. He wants everyone _____ be happy.
4. Can you help me _____ unload the car.
5. Have Mrs. Jones _____ come in, please.
6. Ask Mrs. Smith _____ wait in the lobby.
7. I've never known him _____ pay for a drink
8. She felt the building _____ move and ran for the stairs.
9. We came here _____ work, not _____ play.

10. She made us _____ wait for over an hour.
11. She lets the dog _____ sleep on the sofa.
12. We planned _____ ask the manager about this apartment
13. You can't make a cat _____ do anything it doesn't want _____ do.
14. Can you help me _____ look for my car keys, please.
15. I would like you _____ wash the dishes and _____ put them away.
16. I have _____ fix breakfast for everyone as well as _____ clean up the dishes.
17. I saw him _____ pour the medicine down the drain.
18. It's best _____ have young children _____ work in groups.

PRONUNCIATION: Pronounce these word pairs and tell if the U sound in each word is the same.

tune - tuna	tub - tuba	tulip - tumor	rub - ruby	duty - dupe	fun - fumes
funeral - fumes	hug - huge	Tuesday - tutor	humid - humor	cue - cut	cure - mule

Practice saying these multiple syllable words with U:

unicycle	undoubtedly	united	unforgettable	ultimate	universal
ukelele	underground	abusive	abacus	absolutely	abruptly
uniformity	unfortunately	unilateral	uninhibited	unobtrusive	unsuitable

Match the words to the definitions one line at a time. In other words, the definitions for line one of the vocabulary words are on line one of the definitions. Line 2 on line 2 and so on.

a cycle with one wheel	together	the best	without doubt	can't forget	involving everyone
suddenly and unexpected	totally	beneath the ground	cruel words or violence	small four stringed guitar	tool used for counting
doesn't attract attention	performed by one person without consent of others	unrestrained	the same	inappropriate	sadly