

FUMC ESL 12-2-2021 High Intermediate and Advanced Lesson

Introduce yourself. Tell where you are from and where you live now. What color is the outside of your house? Would you ever paint your house pink?

Pronunciation: Remember, some past tense ED words sound the ED and others do not. Instead you will hear a D or a T sound at the end. For example, in the word "wanted", we sound the ED. In the word "snowed", we don't. You hear a slight D sound at the end. In the word, "stopped", you hear a slight T sound at the end. Tell which words below sound the ED at the end.

loaded	rubbed	cried	accepted
buzzed	canned	ended	feared
judged	planted	folded	hugged
greeted	whispered	crowned	faded
needed	crunched	wished	shopped
picked	dated	chilled	interrupted

The Secret Life of Bees Part 14

Review: In part 13, Rosaleen and Lily arrive in Tiberon. Lily goes into a small store and sees some honey with the Black Madonna on the label. It looks just like the picture she has that belonged to her mother. She asks the grocer about it and he directs her to August Boatwright's pink house. August is a beekeeper who sells the honey.



Sure enough, before long, we saw it. A pink house so pink it burned your eyeballs. A woman moved along a row of white wooden boxes that bordered the woods beside the pink house. She was tall, dressed in white, wearing a hat with netting attached to it that fell down over her face. Lifting the tops off the boxes, she peered inside, swinging a tin bucket of smoke back and forth. Clouds of bees rose up and flew circles around her head.

We stood across the road, Rosaleen and I. I was in awe. The mystery of the bees was playing out. "She's the woman who makes the Black Madonna honey," I whispered to Rosaleen. I couldn't take my eyes off of her, the Mistress of Bees, the portal into my mother's life. August

Boatwright. Rosaleen wiped the perspiration from her lip and spit tobacco juice. "I hope she makes honey better than she picks out paint colors," said Rosaleen.

1. *What does Lily mean when she says, "I was in awe?" What are you "in awe" of?*
2. *What does Lily mean when she says, "The mystery of the bees was playing out"?*
3. *A "portal" is like an entrance. Lily thinks August is a portal to*
4. *What was Rosaleen's comment about August Boatwright?*

The woman in white finished with the bees and walked around the back of the house. Rosaleen and I stood on the front porch trying to get the nerve to knock. My heart was beating so loudly I thought Rosaleen could hear it. But when I asked her, she said, "I don't hear anything but the Good Lord asking me what the devil I'm doing here."

Do you think Rosaleen wants to be in Tiberon on August Boatwright's porch?

When the door opened, it was not the woman in white but another one wearing a bright red dress. Her hair was cut so short it looked like a swim cap pulled tight over her scalp.

"Are you August Boatwright," I asked.

"No, I'm June Boatwright. August is my sister." June's eyes swept over Rosaleen and I.

Rosaleen had stitches on her forehead and lumps and bruises all over her. "We came to see August," I said.

Suddenly another woman appeared behind June.

"I'm May Boatwright," the woman said. "I'm August's sister, too." She smiled at us with an odd grin that let you know she wasn't a completely normal person. And she just kept grinning at us, unlike June who was frowning. I wished June would crack even a little smile. She obviously wasn't impressed with Rosaleen and I.

"Is August expecting you?" asked June. Rosaleen blurted out, "No, see Lily has this picture of a..." I quickly interrupted Rosaleen before she spilled the beans. I said, "I saw a jar of honey back in the store down the road and the man in the store said..." Before I could finish, June broke in, "Oh, you came to buy honey. Why didn't you say so? Come on in. I'll go get August."

1. *June was suspicious of Lily and Rosaleen because of the way they looked. Why did June change her mind and invite them in?*
2. *If you spill the beans, you tell a secret. Who almost spilled the beans? Why didn't Lily want Rosaleen to spill the beans about the Black Madonna?*

People talk about a sixth sense. I believe I must have it, because the moment I stepped into the house I felt a trembling along my skin like an electrical current. The body knows things a long time before the mind catches up to them. I was wondering what my body knew that I didn't.



If you have a "sixth sense" you are aware of something without knowing how you are aware of it. Sometimes you can feel the hairs on the back of your neck stand up. You are fearful, but you don't yet know why. Have you ever had a sixth sense that made you fearful or made you feel like something was going to happen?

The room smelled of furniture polish. Every piece of furniture had been carefully waxed. It was a big room with throw rugs on the floor and an old piano. There were cane bottomed rockers with afghans thrown over them. A wide mouthed milk bottle filled with flowers sat on the table.

Every wall had mirrors on it. But the strangest thing was over in the corner. It was a carving of a woman made out of driftwood. She stood about three feet tall and was as black as can be. She had a painted red heart on her breast. Her right arm was raised straight up and ended in a fist. Even though she wasn't dressed like Mary, I knew that's who she was. And she felt magnetic to me. I felt like that carved Mary knew me all the way to my core. I felt she knew how I hated T. Ray and the girls at school, but mostly myself for killing my mother. But the statue also made me feel like there was goodness and beauty in me, too. Like I really had all that fine potential Mrs. Henry said I did. I stepped closer and caught the faint scent of honey coming from the wood.

- 1. Have each student tell one thing about the room, then tell one thing about the carved driftwood Mary.*
- 2. Lily feels drawn to the carved statue as if it was a magnet. What does she mean when she says she felt like that carved Mary knew her all the way to her core. Have you ever met people who you felt like knew you to your core?*
- 3. Who does Lily hate the most?*

Then August Boatwright entered wearing a pair of rimless glasses and a lime green scarf tied onto her belt. "Who've we got here?" she asked. Her skin was buttery with sweat and sun. Her face had a thousand caramel colored wrinkles, but the rest of her seemed decades younger. I opened my mouth without any idea what I was going to say. I didn't want to tell her the truth, for fear she'd call T. Ray or the sheriff. I made up a story about Rosaleen and I trying to get to relatives in Virginia and how we ran out of money. August listened. "I see." she said. And she did see. She could see right through me. She didn't believe a word of my story.

1. *Describe August.*
2. *Why won't Lily tell August the truth?*

August took off her glasses and rubbed each side of her nose. It was so quiet you could hear the clock ticking. August replaced her glasses and reached out to Rosaleen examining the stitches on her forehead, the cut under her eye, the bruises on her arms. "You look like you've been beaten," said August. "You'd better stay with us until you figure out what to do. We can't have you living on the side of the road."

June sucked in her breath. "But August....," she said.

"They'll stay here," August repeated in a way that let me know who the big sister was and who the little sister was. "It'll be all right. We've got the cots in the honey house."

"Thank you," I said to August.

1. *Do you think August is a kind person? Why or why not?*
2. *How does June feel about the idea of Lily and Rosaleen staying with them?*
3. *Where will Rosaleen and Lily be staying?*

(August with her rimless glasses)

