

Play: *The Secret Life of Bees* • Issue: October 13, 2008

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Citing Symbols

A symbol is an object that stands for or points to a reality beyond itself. For example, a rose isn't always just a flower. Sometimes it is meant to symbolize love. The number 13 can symbolize bad luck. An eagle can symbolize freedom.

Directions: In this activity, identify the symbolism in the examples taken from the play *The Secret Life of Bees*. Then describe a symbol you use in your life.

1. Lily stares at the map of South Carolina that hangs on her bedroom wall. A bee crawls on the map near the city of Tiburon. She traps it in a jar and watches it fight for its freedom. **What does the bee symbolize in this passage?**

2. A few months later, Lily sits in the forest. Autumn has turned the leaves glorious shades of red and gold. **What do the leaves symbolize in this passage?**

3. As (Lily) turns to walk away, a bee zips past her. It flies deep into the woods and disappears into a thriving hive. The hum inside is unmistakably happy. **What does the bee symbolize in this passage?**

YOUR TURN

Choose a symbol in your world, and explore its meanings by answering the following questions.

Symbol: _____

Where have you seen or heard your symbol? _____

Have you used the symbol in conversation, an e-mail, etc.? _____

If yes, explain how you have used the symbol: _____

What words come to mind when you think of your symbol? _____

What does this symbol mean to you? _____
