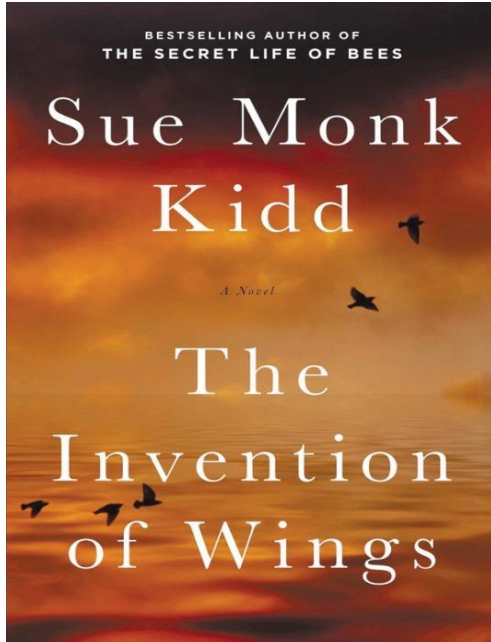


**CP & Honors English III**  
**Mrs. Foster**  
**2021 Summer Reading**



Writing at the height of her narrative and imaginative gifts, Sue Monk Kidd presents a masterpiece of hope, daring, the quest for freedom, and the desire to have a voice in the world. Hetty “Handful” Grimke, an urban slave in early nineteenth century Charleston, yearns for life beyond the suffocating walls that enclose her within the wealthy Grimke household. The Grimke’s daughter, Sarah, has known from an early age she is meant to do something large in the world, but she is hemmed in by the limits imposed on women.

Kidd’s sweeping novel is set in motion on Sarah’s eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership of ten-year-old Handful, who is to be her handmaid. We follow their remarkable journeys over the next thirty-five years, as both strive for a life of their own, dramatically shaping each other’s destinies and forming a complex relationship marked by guilt, defiance, estrangement and the uneasy ways of love.

This exquisitely written novel is a triumph of storytelling that looks with unswerving eyes at a devastating wound in American history, through women whose struggles for liberation, empowerment, and expression will leave no reader unmoved.

**Important Note to Students, Parents / Guardians:**

Students are expected to read this selection very carefully and to annotate, going back and rereading as necessary to understand the plot details, characterization, point of view, symbolism, and theme. Feel free to review online study guides as a supplement to help you understand the texts.

I will check annotations on the first day of school. Please annotate in the book and/or use sticky notes placed in the book. You must have a hard copy of the book. There will be a quiz on reading on the second day of classes. The quizzes require you to identify important passages from the novel and explain their context and significance. We will continue to study the book the first two to three weeks of school, so please bring it with you and be prepared for future assignments. Your first quarter interim grade will consist mostly of your averaged summer reading grades, so you should avoid any temptation to cut corners.

I look forward to a great year together! Please do not hesitate to contact me over the summer if you have any questions or concerns.

Please email questions to [rhetta\\_foster@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:rhetta_foster@charleston.k12.sc.us)