

## American Studies (Level 4)

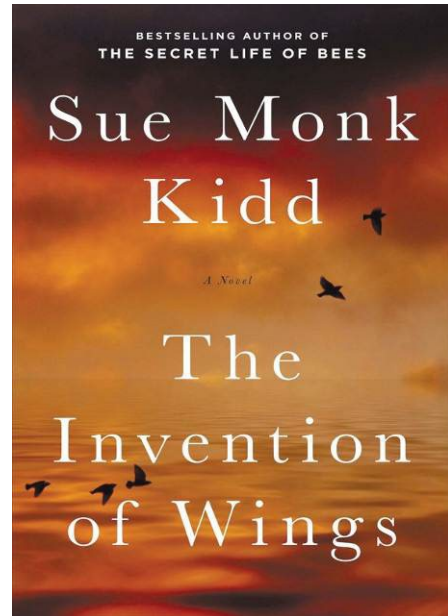
### The Invention of Wings, Sue Monk Kidd

ISBN-13: 9780143121701

**\*\* DO NOT BUY THE VERSION WITH OPRAH'S NOTES\*\***

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 (Amazon.com).

As you read, please annotate carefully for important scenes that give you insight into these characters. What are their internal struggles? External struggles?



1. First, you should read the non-fiction essay "[Afro-American Women and Quilts](https://kora.quiltindex.org/files/35-90-10/Uncoverings1980-A9.pdf)" by Cuesta Benberry linked here <https://kora.quiltindex.org/files/35-90-10/Uncoverings1980-A9.pdf>
2. Then, read the novel *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd. As you read, please annotate carefully to consider all passages that help answer the question: How does this story impact your understanding of slavery? What are these characters' internal and external struggles?

In addition, annotate passages relating to the "Afro-American Women and Quilts" essay. How does this essay help your understanding of the purpose of quilts in *The Invention of Wings*?

\*For students moving from level 3 to level 4 American Studies, please see the linked [supplemental summer reading list](#). In addition to the essay and novel written above, you should read 2 of the suggested books and 2-3 of the non-fiction essays on this list to prepare you for the rigor of 4-level American Studies.