

Summer Reading – English III – (Required)
The Bean Trees by Barbara Kingsolver

You may use audio/I-Tunes along with the book if it will help your comprehension. Please be sure to use the unabridged version only.

Read the book with care and make sure you can answer the questions and understand the vocabulary below as you will be tested on this material the first week of school. Please bring your completed guide with you on the first day of class.

Vocabulary: The Bean Trees (Using context clues as a first option or a dictionary as a second, define the terms below)

Chapters One – Four

silo, prosthetic, emanating, transient, ascendant, endogenous, galvanic, jillion, rummage, cellophane, stout, dilapidated

Chapters Five-Ten

condone, reverence, ramshackle, taunting, scrounge, picayune, jibbering, prudish, trellis, greengrocer

Chapters Eleven - Twelve

persistent, cacadas, scorched, asphyxiation

Chapters Thirteen - Fourteen

resilient, trauma, coerce, bewilderment, hootch, perturbed

Chapters Fifteen - Seventeen

rhinestones, catatonic, notarize, transient, parsonage, horticulture, imposter, rigamarole

Short Answer:

1. Describe Marietta/ Taylor. What do you think she looks like? What sort of person is she?
2. How do you think Newt Hardbine died?
3. What two promises does Marietta/Taylor make to herself when she leaves Pittman, Kentucky?
4. What do you know about the life that the baby lived before she was given to Taylor?
5. Compare the way that Chapters One and Two are narrated.
6. Describe Lou Anne. Compare the way she thinks about life with her mother. How does her mother feel about her marriage?
7. What do Lou Anne and Taylor have in common?
8. Why did Lou Anne and Angel's marriage fall apart? Who caused the problems/why?

9. Describe the time that Taylor and Turtle live at the Broken Arrow Motel in Oklahoma?
10. Describe Mattie.
11. How did "Jesus is Lord Used Tires" get named? Why is this an appropriate name for Mattie's business?
12. Why do you think Taylor picked the name Turtle for the baby?
13. What does Angel do with the bottle of baptismal water Grandma Logan leaves for Lou Anne?
14. How do Taylor and Lou Anne meet?
15. Explain the irony of the fact that "the first killing frost of winter came on Valentine's Day."
16. Why does the priest, Father William visit the tire shop so often?
17. Describe Estevan and Esperanza.
18. What is the point of Estevan's story about heaven and hell?
19. How does Lou Anne feel about her Mom marrying?
20. What is the symbolism of Wisteria? How does this symbolism relate to people in the novel?
21. Respond to Estevan's statement about Americans? (ch. 8)
22. What sort of people does Mattie give sanctuary to?
23. What does Angel say to Lou Anne when he comes back?
24. What do the x-rays from Dr. Pelinowsky reveal?
25. What is Turtle's real name and how does Taylor find out?
26. Why did Estevan and Esperanza give up their daughter?
27. How does Edna Poppy save Turtle?
28. How does working at the salsa factory change Lou Anne?
29. Where does Mattie take everyone to experience the first summer rain?
30. Look up the word "anthropomorphism" and find three examples in the description of the storm and the desert that begins ch. 12.
31. How does Taylor feel about Estevan and what does she do about it?

32. What is the symbolism of the night-blooming Cereus plant? How does this relate to the symbolism of Wisteria?
33. How does Taylor respond after Turtle is attacked?
34. Is Taylor a hero? Give reasons for your answer.
35. How do Estevan and Esperanza feel on the Indian reservation?
36. How do Estevan and Esperanza help Taylor to adopt Turtle?
37. Why does Esperanza cry at the adoption? Look up the word "catharsis" and explain what it means in this context.
38. Should Lou Anne get back together with Angel?
39. What do you think the future holds for Taylor and Turtle? List five questions that are left unanswered at the end of the book.
40. Read the following statement that Barbara Kingsolver made about *The Bean Trees*, then make a list of five or more examples to show how the "central question" is answered in the book:

↳ The writing of a first novel is something like this big old purse you've been carrying around your whole life, throwing in ideas, characters, and all the things that have ever struck you as terribly important. One day, for whatever reason, you just have to dump that big purse out and there lies this pile of junk. You start picking through it, and assembling it into what you hope will be a statement of your life's great themes. That's how it was for me. It probably wasn't until midway through the writing that I had a grasp of **the central question: What are the many ways, sometimes hidden and underground ways, that people help themselves and each other survive hard times?"**

41. *The Bean Trees* deals with the theme of being an outsider. In what ways are various characters outsiders? What does this suggest about the sacrifices required to be an insider? How does feeling like an outsider affect one's life? What advantages are there to being an outsider?