

***The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver**

English Language Arts, 10th Grade

WHAT'S THE STORY?

After her high school graduation, Taylor Greer decides to leave home and drive until her VW runs out of gas. This journey first takes her through the Cherokee Nation where she is presented with a small child who has been abused and now abandoned. Not knowing what else to do, Taylor takes the child, who she names Turtle, with her on the rest of her journey. When Taylor's tires blow out in Tucson, Arizona, she decides to make her home there. As Taylor is faced with sudden motherhood, she grows from an adolescent who seems focused on herself, to an adult who helps Turtle overcome a tortuous past, battles to adopt her, and learns to put others before herself.

CONNECTIONS TO CURRICULUM

The following are some, but not all, of the connections to curriculum for this novel.

- **Unit 1: Environment and Identity**
 - Essential Question: "How do adversity and environment influence an individual's behavior and identity?"

KEY STANDARDS ADDRESSED

- Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. RL.10.1
- Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development. RL.10.2
- Analyze how complex characters develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme. RL.10.3
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone. RL.10.4
- Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it, and manipulate time create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise. RL.10.5
- Analyze a particular point of view or cultural experience reflected in a work of literature. RL.10.6
- Analyze and evaluate the representation of a subject or a key scene in multiple mediums-- including media, artistic, and other visual formats. RL.10.7
- Analyze how an author draws on and transforms source material in a specific work. RL.10.9
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. RL.10.12