



LAKES COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

1600 Eagle Way
Lake Villa, Illinois 60046
847-838-7100
Fax: 847-838-3670



Honors English Student:

The Honors English Program at Lakes Community High School is a rigorous endeavor. The program will challenge your reading, writing, and communication skills. One of the tenets of the program is to prepare you for success in the Advanced Placement English class and, ultimately, the Advance Placement exam. The workload, at times, will be arduous.

Expectations:

- Ability to manage multiple concurrent assignments
- Multiple assignments with the same due date
- Large blocks of independent reading
- Substantial weekly reflective writing assignments (Writer's Workshop)
- Daily participation in student-initiated class discussion
- Ability to work collaboratively on long-range assignments

As indicated by your enrollment in the Honors Program, you have a love for reading. To this you will be assigned a summer reading project. The summer reading project is preparatory for the upcoming semester. You will be required to complete an assignment in addition to reading the novel in order to properly guide you through the text. The details of the assignment specific to your grade level are attached.

While the Honors Program is demanding, the Honors English teachers are dedicated to unlocking your full potential in the subject of English. Success in this program is dependent on your drive and effort. For those of you who have a love a reading, those who want to express their thoughts and ideas on literature, and those who understand there is craftsmanship in good writing, we look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Sincerely,

The Honors English Teachers



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May 10, 2008

Dear Student:

Welcome to Lakes Community High School and Freshman Honors English! My name is Ms. Ingram, and I will have the pleasure of teaching most of you next year. I am looking forward to meeting all of you in the fall.

As you know, Honors English I is a rigorous class. Our objective is to reinforce and expand your knowledge of reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. There is nothing more rewarding to me than to see a student grow!

Your assignment **due the first day of class** is a summer reading project. Do not wait until the last minute to begin this project. You will probably do a better job on this project if you give yourself at least a month to work on it. Enclosed is a copy of *The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver. You will need to read the book, complete the summer project (following), and be prepared for class discussion covering the material in the book. There will also be a short answer/ essay test worth 100 points to be given either the first or second day of class.

1. Research the human rights struggles in Guatemala spanning the 1960s through the mid-1990s. In 2-3 well-developed paragraphs, explain the political upheaval and how it impacted the people of this Central American country. How has Kingsolver used this foreign country's period of unrest to make her novel more powerful and relevant? (30 points)
2. Complete the attached response guide at the conclusion of the novel. Please type your responses in complete sentences. (80 points)
3. Find a poem that shares a theme with *The Bean Trees*. In a well-developed paragraph, explain why the poem you chose correlates with the ideas presented in the novel. Include the poem with your response. (20 points)
4. Create a new book jacket. This should include an attractive picture or cover design on the right side of the page, and an original summary of the book, information on the author and illustrator, and information about other books by the author on the left side of the page. Briefly explain on the reverse side your rationale for the images/illustrations you chose. (20 points)

You may access this information and other helpful links through my website at www.lakeseagles.com → academics → teacher web pages → Ingram.



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Bring an "English only" subject notebook with perforated pages, a blue or black pen, and your copy of the novel to the first day of class so you can take notes on class discussions.

I will provide you with a syllabus and a calendar on the first day of class.

My e-mail address is cingram@lakeseagles.com. My voice mail is (847)838-7100 x8032. Unfortunately, I will not be available over the summer break, but I have faith that you will be able to complete the work successfully and be prepared for class!

I hope you have a wonderful summer vacation!

Ms. Ingram

The Bean Trees
English I Honors

Response guide- Answer the following questions in at least 4-5 complete sentences using textual evidence (with page numbers) as support for your answers. Responses must be typed. (5 points each)

1. In what ways is Missy's mother a "good" mother for Missy? What qualities does Missy's mother try to instill in Missy?
2. Compare the settings of Pittman County, Kentucky with Tucson, Arizona as Kingsolver describes them. How do these descriptions portray the moods of these places? What details about the town, its history, and its inhabitants, make the place feel real? Why is the setting important for the story?
3. Barbara Kingsolver is described by critics as a political activist who expresses her ideas about political and social issues in her stories. Cite an incident in chapter 2 that illustrates Kingsolver's views on racial prejudice. Explain what you believe she is saying about race based on this incident.
4. What are some of the internal and external conflicts Taylor faces when she discovers the baby in her car?
5. List two fears Lou Ann expresses to Taylor in chapter 5. What do Lou Ann's fears suggest about her overall personality?
6. What experiences cause Lou Ann's self-confidence and independence to increase? How is this displayed in her actions?
7. What do the birds symbolically represent in this novel?
8. In what way is Taylor's disillusionment about her ability to help Turtle in chapter 12 similar to Taylor's disillusionment about the world's unwillingness to help people like Estevan and Esperanza?
9. In what ways is Turtle's survival story similar to Estevan and Esperanza's survival story?
10. How is the link between rhizobia (the microscopic bugs that live in the roots of legumes, turning nitrogen gas into fertilizer and allowing the plants to thrive in poor soil) and wisteria vines ("bean trees") similar to the relationships that form between the women in the novel?
11. In what sense is Turtle's adoption a catharsis for Esperanza?
12. Quote at least three examples of metaphors or similes in the novel. How do each of these literary devices help the reader to understand the motivations and feelings of the characters?
13. *The Bean Trees* is a novel about refugees. Identify the characters in the novel who have left or been driven from their homelands. What differentiates their experiences, and what commonalities bind them together?
14. After reading *The Bean Trees*, how would Kingsolver define home? How would she define family?
15. Why do you think *The Bean Trees* has been dubbed "the work of a visionary" and has become so popular? What is it about the book that keeps attracting readers for nearly two decades after its initial publication? Why does it speak to us so powerfully?
16. Kingsolver once said, "*I read the Children of Violence novels and began to understand how a person could write about the problems of the world in a compelling and beautiful way. And it seemed to me that was the most important thing I could ever do, if I could ever do that.*" What problems does she write about? In what ways does the novel address the larger themes of community, family, and love?