

Ms. Hotaling  
English I

### **Summer Assignment: Reading Guide Questions**

**Directions:** As you read *The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver, answer the following questions. They need to be typed. Please use the question as part of your answer. Your assignment will be submitted for a grade.

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 give 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 and 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 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.