

## WHS Book Rationale

**Title:** *The Bean Trees*

**Author:** Barbara Kingsolver

- **Intended Audience**

- English 10 Honors

- **Brief summary and educational significance**

Taylor Greer, a poor Kentucky girl, has hopes of avoiding pregnancy and getting out of town. She heads west with high-hopes and a non-reliable car. As she arrives in Tucson, Arizona she unexpectedly finds herself with a three-year-old American Indian girl named Turtle. She must come to terms with motherhood and putting down roots.

- **Purpose of teaching the work and how it will be used**

This novel provides strong material for examining the way authors use the basic elements of fiction-character, plot, and setting-that students must learn to analyze throughout the year. Acclaimed writer Barbara Kingsolver, adding a woman author to the curriculum, also writes this novel. It presents an opportunity to discuss love, friendship, abandonment and belonging.

- **Potential problems**

Some strong language.

- **Addressing potential problems**

Addressed in class discussions related to themes of English 10 Honors.