



Bishop McGuinness English Department Summer Reading Assignment for 2023-2024

COURSE: English 2

TEACHER NAME(S): Ms. Wagner swagner@bmchs.org
Ms. Williams kwilliams@bmchs.org

REQUIRED READING: Read *The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver. This novel is available to check out through the Bishop McGuinness English Department, but if you'd rather buy or borrow your own copy, you are welcome to that option. A physical copy will be required for the first 3 weeks of school. If you need to check out a copy of the novel, you may check one out from Ms. Williams (room 222) no later than Friday, May 19th.

NOTE: If over the summer, you decide to transfer from Honors English II into on-level English II, you will need to read *The Bean Trees* in order to be prepared for the first week of school in August.

Required Reading:

The Bean Trees by Barbara Kingsolver

Summary: Marietta leaves her home in Kentucky and moves to Tucson, Arizona. On the way to Tucson, she's forced to become the guardian of an abused child whom she names Turtle.

Marietta attempts to build a new life in Tucson, but when the authorities realize she isn't Turtle's legal guardian, she's forced to return to Oklahoma and search for Turtle's birth parents. Motifs seen in the novel: rebirth, motherhood, community.

Assignments:

- Part 1: Read the novel. Bring your copy to class with you for the first three weeks of school.
- Part 2: Summer Reading Parent Verification (pg. 3). Signed verification forms are DUE on the first day of school. Bring a printed, hard copy to class with you.
- Part 3: Write a letter of introduction to yourself by following the instructions on pg. 4. Letters are DUE on the first day of school. Bring a printed, hard copy to class with you.

- Part 4: Be prepared for the following within the first 3 weeks of school:
 - Exam over the novel in the first full week of school.
 - Passage annotations (you will need your own copy of the book for this)
 - An in-class writing exercise or activity pertaining to the summer reading.

DUE Date: First Day of School (for Parts 1, 2, and 3)

Other information: Please contact Ms. Wagner (swagner@bmchs.org), or Ms. Williams (kwilliams@bmchs.org) with questions about the summer reading assignments for English II.

***Note: Students must be aware that if they drop a class within the 1st week of school, they must have read the required summer reading for their new class.

Part 2: Parent Verification

Please print this out and bring it to class on the first day.

I verify that _____
PRINT STUDENT'S FIRST AND LAST NAME

has completed his/her summer reading and has followed all instructions included in this packet.

PLEASE INITIAL BELOW

_____ I am aware that the work assigned in this packet will receive a grade based on the included criteria.

_____ I am aware that there will be a graded assessment (test) during the first week of school. This assessment will measure students' basic understanding of the assigned novel, *The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver.

_____ I am aware that the first unit of the semester will reflect content from the assigned reading. Students will engage in a variety of activities, including writing assignments, discussions, and a unit test, designed to develop reading and writing skills needed for success.

_____ I am aware that each student will need a physical copy of the book for class during the first three weeks of school. Books can be borrowed, rented, or purchased; a limited number of copies of the book are available through the English Department at Bishop Mcguinness and should be checked out by Friday 5/19.

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Part 3: Letter of Introduction

Please write a letter introducing yourself. This letter should be typed and printed for the first day of school. In your letter be sure to complete the following:

- A greeting that includes the name of your assigned teacher**
 - Answers to Prompt 1 (see below)**
 - Answers to Prompt 2, either A. or B. (see below)**
 - Answers to Prompt 3 (see below)**
 - Paragraphs where needed (there should be at least 3)**
 - Handwritten signature**
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Prompt 1: 5-8 sentences

What makes you uniquely you? Do you have a special talent, interest, or hobby? A favorite place or activity? How might knowing about this aspect of your life help other people understand who you are as a person?

Prompt 2: (choose one to answer—either A. or B.) 5-8 sentences

A.

What are your academic strengths? Identify at least two things that you are good at – this can be a subject area you feel confident about (math, history) or a skill that has helped you to succeed in school (organization, note taking).

-OR-

B.

What are your academic challenges? What strategies do you use to overcome these challenges? Who – or what – helps you when you are having difficulty with a class or an assignment?

Prompt 3: 3-6 sentences

What are you most looking forward to this year – in English, in school, in your life outside of class? Choose one thing and explain why you are excited about it.