

In-class writing about *The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver

Choose **one** of the following prompts and respond to it. Develop your response with specific references and selected quotations from **five** of the seven chapters we've read so far and incorporate the illustrative facts and words smoothly into the text of your essay. Answer the question in your thesis statement. Plan two or three paragraphs that make a hearty **P.I.E.** with lots of rich, meaty filling. Conclude with a summary or reflection on what you've written in the body.



"This shows...."

P= Point – state your point or position in response to the prompt
I = Illustration – support your point with two or three direct references to the story. One of these can be a short quotation. "For example..." (**Give the page number in parenthesis following the reference or quotation.**)
E = Explain the connection between your illustrations and your point. I.E.

Prompt A – Theme

At the end of Chapter 7, Estevan tells a story about heaven and hell. In hell, the people are starving because they have spoons with handles too long to feed themselves. So they curse and swear at each other. In heaven, the people have the same spoons. But, they feed each other.

How does Estevan's story reflect the book's thematic idea of community?

First, state what the story, so far, reveals about community, (positive or negative), then write two or three paragraphs that illustrate who, what, when, where, and why and how about community. Organize your paragraphs in a logical order, and develop them with specific references and quotations from the book.

Prompt B – Characterization

Lou Ann Ruiz is a complex woman who can be described in several ways. **Which of the following adjectives do you think best describe her personal traits? Practical, accepting, fearful, thoughtful, optimistic.**

Choose three of these adjectives. Organize them in a logical way, then develop an essay that shows how Barbara Kingsolver reveals these traits through Lou Ann's actions, thoughts, and dialogue. Organize your paragraphs in a logical order, and develop them with specific references and quotations from the book.

Prompt C – Conflict

A review on the book states, "This funny, inspiring book is a marvelous affirmation of risk-taking, commitment and everyday miracles ... an overwhelming delight, as random and unexpected as real life."

Publishers Weekly

From what you've read so far, does this seem to be an accurate description of this book? If so, explain why. If not, explain why not.

First, state your position, then in three or four paragraphs show how the adjectives or statements about the book are true or false. (You may agree with some and disagree with others.) Organize your paragraphs in a logical order, and develop them with specific references and quotations from the book.