

# BARBARA KINGSOLVER'S *BEAN TREES*

- ✘ Grew up in rural Kentucky
- ✘ Early influences: the Bookmobile, a large garden, the surrounding fields & woods, & parents who were tolerant of nature but intolerant of TV.
- ✘ Graduated with a degree in biology

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- ✘ Moved to Tucson pursued graduate studies in evolutionary biology at the University of Arizona
  - ✘ After graduate school she was a scientific writer before becoming a freelance journalist.
  - ✘ She wrote *The Bean Trees* while suffering from insomnia during pregnancy.

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- ✘ Widespread critical acclaim and word-of-mouth support have kept the book in print, adopted into the core curriculum of high school and college literature classes across the U.S., & translated into more than a dozen languages.
  - ✘ Other novels *Animal Dreams*, *Pigs in Heaven*, *The Poisonwood Bible*, and *Prodigal Summer*

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- ✘ She established the Bellwether Prize, awarded to a first novel that uses literature as a tool for change.
  - ✘ She received the National Humanities Medal, our nation's highest honor for **service** through the arts.
  - ✘ She now lives with her husband & 2 girls on a farm in Virginia. Spent a year eating locally and wrote a book about it. [animalvegetablemiracle](#)

# TEACH A NONFICTION ESSAY

## GROUP PRESENTATION

To explore the many social issues raised in the novel.

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- ✘ You will present the article (5 min.) and lead a **class discussion** (5 min.)
  - ✘ You must have ***at least 5 thought provoking discussion questions.*** You can stray from this list during discussion if you'd like, but you need these 5 questions prepared before your discussion and a copy for Ms. F.

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- ✘ As a group, you will teach your essay to the rest of the class. Your presentation should include a brief article **summary** (no more than 2 minutes) and the **American themes** presented in the article.

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## Absences:

- ✘ If you are gone the day your group presents, you should write a response answering your group's discussion questions (1 page).
- ✘ However, you will not be able to make up the discussion points.



# DISCUSSION POINTS

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- ✘ When you are not presenting, you must participate in discussion.
- ✘ There are five points available for your participation over the two days of presentations.
- ✘ If you respond at least three quality times during discussions, you will get 5 points. If you respond twice you will get 3 points. And, if you respond once you will get 2 points.

## Point Breakdown:

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### Presentation (10 points)

Did the group present for the full 10 minutes? Was there a strong command of the article and the concepts/themes present in the article? Was the discussion strong, interesting, and engaging?

### Discussion Questions (5 points)

Are there at least 5 *thought provoking* discussion questions?

### Discussion (5 points)

Did student respond 3 times? 2 times? 1 time?