HE2 Summer Reading Assignment

To prepare for Honors English 2, please read and annotate The Bean Trees by Barbara Kingsolver. This text will be used extensively during the first few weeks of school and will serve to introduce you to the rigor and expectations of the course. Your understanding of the text will be measured by the following:

- A forced choice, SAT-style reading assessment
- Multiple discussions and a formal Socratic Seminar
- Various collaborative tasks
- A formal piece of writing

As you read, pay attention to how Kingsolver uses diction (word choice) to do the following:

1. Convey themes and ideas
2. Support the setting
3. Bring the characters to life

If you need more information about diction, please review these articles:


If you have trouble getting a copy of the text, please email Mrs. Vos (lvos@naperville203.org).

The Bean Trees is bestselling author Barbara Kingsolver’s first novel, now widely regarded as a modern classic. It is the charming, engrossing tale of rural Kentucky native Taylor Greer, who only wants to get away from her roots and avoid getting pregnant. She succeeds, but inherits a 3-year-old native-American little girl named Turtle along the way, and together, from Oklahoma to Tucson, Arizona, half-Cherokee Taylor and her charge search for a new life in the West.

The author of such bestsellers as The Lacuna, The Poisonwood Bible, and Flight Behavior, Barbara Kingsolver has been hailed for her striking imagery and clear dialogue, and this is the novel that kicked off her remarkable literary career. (Amazon.com)

HE2 Team: Mr. Doman, Mrs. Johnson, and Mrs. Konrad