

## **STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS FOR THE BEAN TREES**

### **CHAPTER 1**

- 1. What is the narrator's real name? How did she get her nickname?**
- 2. Where does she live? Who else is in her family?**
- 3. What has she witnessed that really scares her?**
- 4. How does her mother feel about her?**
- 5. What type of person was she while she was in school?**
- 6. How does Hughes Walter change her life?**
- 7. What happens to her during her first week on the job?**
- 8. Why doesn't she quit after this?**
- 9. What does she do with the money she earns at her job?**
- 10. What two promises does she make when she hits the town line? Does she keep both promises?**
- 11. What does she change her name to?**
- 12. Where is she when her rocker arm breaks? What happens to her when she leaves the bar?**
- 13. Where do they spend the night? What does Taylor discover?**

### **CHAPTER 2**

- 1. Where does Lou Ann Ruiz live?**
- 2. What happens to her when she is at the doctor?**
- 3. What advice did the doctor give her?**

### **CHAPTER 3**

- 1. How does Taylor react to crossing into Arizona? What is the month and day that she arrives in Arizona?**
- 2. How and where did she spend the Holidays?**
- 3. How does the child get her name?**
- 4. What happens when Taylor exits the freeway to get out of the hail storm?**
- 5. Where does she go?**
- 6. How does Mattie treat them?**
- 7. Where does Taylor decide to stay?**
- 8. Who is Sandi?**

### **CHAPTER 4**

- 1. Why are Lou Ann's mother and grandmother at her house?**
- 2. Where does Angel stay while they are in town?**
- 3. What is the relationship like between her mother and her grandmother?**

## **CHAPTER 5**

- 1. Where are Taylor and Turtle living?**
- 2. What happened at Burger Derby?**
- 3. Why does she decide to answer ads looking for a roommate?**
- 4. What are the people like at the first place she goes to?**
- 5. How do she and Lou Ann get along? What do they find out about where they were raised?**
- 6. What decision do they make?**

## **CHAPTER 6**

- 1. Where does Taylor get a job?**
- 2. How does Mattie help Taylor over her fears about exploding tires?**
- 3. What is Lou Ann doing when Taylor comes home with the book for Turtle?**
- 4. Why is Taylor upset by this?**
- 5. What does Lou Ann say in response?**
- 6. What do they end up doing?**
- 7. What happens to Lou Ann? Why does this upset her?**

## **CHAPTER 7**

- 1. Who goes on the picnic? Where are the two outsiders from?**
- 2. What happens on the way home from the picnic?**
- 3. What is Turtle's first word?**
- 4. What are most of her words the names of?**
- 5. Who are Edna and Virgie Mae?**
- 6. Who else is at dinner? What comments do Edna and Virgie Mae make that should upset the other guests?**

## **CHAPTER 8**

- 1. What news does Taylor receive from her mother? How does this affect her?**
- 2. What happens to Lou Ann while Taylor and Turtle are at the doctor?**
- 3. What does the doctor find regarding Turtle? How old is she?**
- 4. Why is Lou Ann so upset at the zoo?**
- 5. Why is she upset with Taylor?**
- 6. What do they discover about Turtle's real name?**

## **CHAPTER 9**

- 1. What has Esperanza tried to do? Where does Estevan go while she is being treated?**
- 2. Where is Lou Ann while this happens?**
- 3. How does Taylor react? Why can't she understand Esperanza's actions?**
- 4. What is Estevan's reply to Taylor?**

5. What does he tell her about their life in Guatemala?
6. What choice were they forced to make?
7. What does Taylor say about her bad luck?
8. What is she thinking while they are all sitting on the couch?

#### **CHAPTER 10**

1. What changes are they making around the house? How is Turtle changing?
2. What does Taylor discover about Edna Poppy? Did Lou Ann know or suspect?
3. What does Taylor tell Esperanza when she goes to visit her?
4. What trouble is Lou Ann having?

#### **CHAPTER 11**

1. Where does Lou Ann get a job?
2. How does she react to her new job? How does Taylor feel?
3. What does Lou Ann worry about most regarding Dwayne Ray and herself?
4. What does she receive in the mail from Montana? Who is it from? What is the message inside the package?
5. What does Taylor think will happen?
6. What does Mattie tell Taylor about Estevan and his wife?
7. What does Taylor feel about this?
8. What is the only way that they can stay in the country?

#### **CHAPTER 12**

1. What finally happens after seven months?
2. Where does Taylor go that afternoon? Who does she go with?
3. What do they discover when they return?
4. How does Turtle react to this?
5. How does Taylor react?
6. Why does she act this way?
7. How does Lou Ann handle the situation?
8. What does Taylor feel about her mothering skills?

#### **CHAPTER 13**

1. What does Taylor think about Turtle speaking again? What does the social worker think? Who is right?
2. Was Turtle abused in the park?
3. What does she try to do with the anatomical dolls?
4. What does the social worker tell her about her legal rights to Turtle? What will happen in a few weeks?
5. How does Taylor react to this? Lou Ann? Why does Taylor react this way?
6. What does Mattie tell Taylor?

7. Why does Taylor make an appointment to see Cynthia alone?
8. Is Cynthia supportive?
9. What decision does Taylor make?
10. What do Edna and Virgie Mae show them before they leave? What do they think this is for the trip?

#### CHAPTER 14

1. What car do they use for their journey?
2. What happens when Immigration stops them?
3. What do Esperanza and Turtle do in the back seat on the trip? What about Taylor and Estevan in the front seat?
4. What has happened at the Broken Arrow since Taylor left?
5. What does Taylor do the next day? What does she find?

#### CHAPTER 15

1. Does Taylor give up her quest?
2. What does she decide to do next?
3. How does Turtle react to cemeteries?
4. What does Taylor find out when she talks to Turtle?

#### CHAPTER 16

1. What is Taylor's next plan?
2. Where do they go?
3. Who do Estevan and Esperanza pretend to be?
4. What are they doing?
5. How does Esperanza react to this?
6. What does she give to Turtle?
7. How does this process change her? Why?

#### CHAPTER 17

1. What does Turtle say whenever they pass a cemetery?
2. What does Taylor insist in regard to Turtle when it is time to say good-bye to Estevan and Esperanza? Why?
3. What does Taylor tell Estevan when she says good-bye? What do they discuss?
4. What does she say about the four of them burying something? What does she mean?
5. What does Taylor tell her mother when she calls her? What is her mother's response?
6. What does her mother tell her about her life now?
7. What does Taylor ask her mother about her actions when Taylor was young? What is her mother's reply?

8. **What is the significance of Taylor telling her mother to say hi to Harland?**
9. **What does Taylor tell Turtle?**
10. **What happens when they go to the library? How does the bean tree (wisteria) grow? What is a rhizobia?**
11. **What does Taylor realize about the similarities between the wisteria and her life and the life of her friends?**
12. **What does she find out when she calls Lou Ann? Who has Lou Ann called?**
13. **How has Lou Ann changed her life? What does she say when Taylor asks her if she is going to move in with Cameron?**
14. **What do they agree that they are to one another?**
15. **How does Lou Ann react to the news that Turtle is now Taylor's adopted daughter?**
16. **Where does she tell Turtle that they are going? Who is the main ingredient in Turtle's soup of life?**