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For Immediate Release

All America Reads Selects Novel for National Reading Program

All America Reads of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities has selected *The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver to be its 2003-04 featured novel. All America Reads (AAR) is a nationwide reading project designed to encourage reading and discussion. *The Bean Trees* will join *Wish You Well* by David Baldacci on the AAR website at www.allamericareads.org.

Educators and reading groups can access free information on the book and author; extensive lesson plans and curricula materials; reading guides and resources; interactive chat rooms and on-line novel discussions, and can participate fully with others across the country in this unique shared reading project.

In the first phase of All America Reads, students and readers across the U.S. have participated in this popular program in schools, libraries, community centers, living rooms, bookstores, and even in the baseball park.

This second phase of All America Reads will double the amount of information All America Reads offers. Resources for *Wish You Well* are fully designed and accessible now. Resources for *The Bean Trees* will be available early fall. Check the website regular for up-to-date information.

The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (www.virginia.edu/vfh) in Charlottesville, Virginia, is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the humanities and to using the humanities to address issues of broad public concern. It is the home of the Virginia Center for the Book, an affiliate of the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress. In all its programs, the Foundation works to make scholarship accessible; to promote understanding and discussion of enduring and contemporary issues; and to broaden the range of educational opportunities available to all Virginians.

For further information about All America Reads, Motherread and Fatherread, or the Virginia Festival of the Book, contact Sheryl Hayes at 434-924-3296 or Sheryl@virginia.edu.

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