Hi Betsy,  
  
Knowing how passionate Kingsolver is about getting back to the earth and living off the grid, I do think you're right about the importance she places on "face to face" communication.  How ironic that once Dellarobia starts earning extra spending money, she opts to spend it on a smart phone (or was it a laptop?) and internet service.  I like that she recognizes that her son Preston can benefit from the information he can find on-line but is also committed to buying him science books and a set of encyclopedias from the second hand store.  Ultimately, I think Kingsolver is less "all or nothing" about technology than I originally thought.    
  
More to come right after Break!  I so appreciate your thoughtful responses.  
Elana

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Hi Elana:

I also love the way Barbara Kingsolver uses language and specific word choices, speech patterns and mannerisms to develop her characters. While I agree that *Flight Behavior* does not have the rich word play of *The Poisonwood Bible* (which is also my favorite Kingsolver book!), I think her use of text messages and “news reporter talk” is really interesting and got me thinking a lot about the different ways we communicate.  I was also struck by Preston’s young classmate who needs to translate for her Spanish speaking mom.  I think in these examples, Kingsolver is telling us something about the different ways we communicate and how meaning can be lost or distorted when we do not speak directly to one another.

I’m really enjoying “talking” with you about one of my most favorite authors and look forward to your next e-mail!

~Betsy

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Dear Betsy,  
  
Hi again!  I hope you have time to think more about *Flight Behavior* as I have some additional questions for you.    
  
One element of Barbara Kingsolver's writing that I particularly enjoy is her love of words and the way she can be so playful with language.  As a person who loves puns and word puzzles, I so appreciate this aspect of her writing.  For example, I might have told you that the thing that truly astounded me about *The Poisonwood Bible*, my all-time favorite Kingsolver book, was her frequent use of palindromes.  It was truly brilliant how Kingsolver came up with so many palindromes and incorporated them so effortlessly as the creation (more like a compulsion) of one of the main characters.    
  
In *Flight Behavior*, I felt like the author played far less with language and this was one of the reasons it was a less satisfying read for me.  I did appreciate the clever quotes from church signs that Dovey would text to Dellarobia and some of the funny things that were said by the young boy Preston and his toddler sister Cordelia.   
  
I am wondering how you felt about Kingsolver's writing in *Flight Behavior.*  Did you feel like it was quintessentially Kingsolver?  If not, what do you think was missing?  I know you read it some time ago, but I would love to hear from you about any particularly memorable bits of writing or times when you thought, "This author really knows how to play with words"?  
  
Many Thanks,  
Elana