Hi Betsy,  
  
I totally agree with your assessments of Dovey and Ovid.  I hadn't thought about how Dellarobia combines both of their best qualities; I really like thinking about her in that way.  
  
It's hard not to notice Kingsolver's strange choices in names for this book.  I think I read somewhere that Turnbow (Dellarobia's married name) is a fairly common Appalachian name or maybe a name from the author's family, but the first names are definitely quite quirky.  I'm not sure what to make of them!  
  
Next week let's "talk" some about the plot of the book.  I'll be thinking about what I liked and what I believe the book could have done without.  
  
Thanks,  
Elana

**From:** Betsy Bailey  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 07, 2013 9:41 AM  
**To:** Elana Cohn-Rozansky  
**Subject:** RE: Flight Behavior...

Hi Elana:

Thanks so much for your e-mail.  I also really appreciate the very interesting characters Barbara Kingsolver creates in her novels, and am always struck in her books about how well she is able to present young children as “real,” full people.  Since I finished reading *Flight Behavior*, I have thought a lot about how various other characters in the novel add to my understanding of the main character Dellarobia.  Two characters I’m thinking of are Dellarobia’s best friend Dovey,  and Ovid Byron, the scientist who comes to Dellarobia’s property to study the butterflies.  Dovey seems more like a teenager than an adult to me, and although I found myself a little frustrated by her immaturity, I admire what a wonderfully loyal friend she is and how emotionally generous she is, giving her time and attention to Dellarobia during difficult times.  Ovid Bryon, on the other hand, seemed so serious and for much of the novel, I wondered if he had any interests beyond his work.  By the end of the novel, I realized how Dellarobia has the best qualities of both of those characters.  She can be fun and playful and so caring, like Dovey, but also very determined and committed to learning and being successful in her work like Ovid.  And because I came to care about Dellarobia and her future, I felt very appreciative of both of these characters who gave her so much support as she made important decisions about the direction of her life.

It’s so nice to be able to have e-mail conversations with someone like you who has similar interests and tastes in books.  I’m looking forward to continuing to “talk” about *Flight Behavior* with you.

~Betsy

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**From:** Elana Cohn-Rozansky   
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 06, 2013 9:33 PM  
**To:** Betsy Bailey  
**Subject:** Flight Behavior...

Hi Betsy,  
  
Thanks for recommending Barbara Kingsolver's *Flight Behavior* to me; I appreciate you lending me the book.  
  
I've been thinking a lot about the book and hoping you remember enough from your reading to answer some questions via email.  I'll be sharing our email "conversations" with the sixth graders as they, too, are busy reading books recommended by their parents, peers, siblings, or teachers and will be engaging in on-line or face-to-face conversations with their "recommenders" throughout the next few weeks.  
  
As you know, there are so many things Barbara Kingsolver does well in her novels.  She's especially good at crafting believable characters.  Interestingly enough, two of my favorite characters in *Flight Behavior* were Dellarobia's two young children Preston and Cordelia.  I thought Preston was like a wise man in a young boy's body.  I liked how his presence often calmed down his mother even though she was constantly worried about him and how he would fit in with his peers.  Cordelia, on the other hand, was just a wonderfully impish toddler.  I loved the silly images of her hiding under her blanket at the dinner table or leaving a trail of cheerios.  Dellarobia's children were not what one would call main characters but they caught my attention and added a realism and warmth to the book.  
  
I hope when you have time, you can write to me about the character (or characters) you liked from the book and maybe those that were not your favorites.  
  
Thanks so much,  
Elana

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