



**Bancroft Upper School
Required English Summer Reading
For *All* Incoming 10th Graders
2010**

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn
by Betty Smith

Background:

Betty Smith's acclaimed novel, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, chronicles Francie Nolan's coming of age in the slums of Brooklyn during the early twentieth-century. Francie yearns for knowledge and education, reading the library books from A-Z in an effort to escape both ignorance and poverty. Along the way, she learns of life, beauty and self-reliance.

Assignment: Make a list of three (3) important themes in the novel. For each theme that you have identified, select and type out two (2) passages/quotes from the text that illustrate these themes. For each quotation, write two-three sentences explaining how you see each passage relating to the theme you have identified. This should be typed, in Times New Roman, 12-pt font, double-spaced. These are due the first day of class.

Teachers: Bonny O'Rourke, Elisa Lellios