



Summer Reading Assignment for Incoming Sophomores

The summer reading assignment novel is *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson. This book is about a young girl who calls the cops at an out of control summer party. Now everyone seems to hate her and she is left alone trying not to think about the unthinkable thing that happened that night. Will she ever be able to speak the truth?

Specific requirements are as follows:

- 📖 Read the entire book.
- 📖 Preview that attached questions for each section of the book before you read that particular section.
- 📖 Answer each question in complete sentences. Answers should be typed and **will be submitted to turnitin.com upon return to school.**
- 📖 Be prepared to take a test on the entire novel the first day of school.

It is important that you read the book and answer the questions so that you can be prepared to take the test, participate in class, and write an essay during the first week of school.

If you find that you want talk to a counselor or someone about some of the issues raised by the events in this novel, you can contact: Outreach Concern, 2030 East Fourth Street, Suite 237, Santa Ana, CA 92705. Phone (714) 547-1163.

Their services are available to all Mater Dei students.

SPEAK Study Questions

Pages 3-24 “Welcome to Merryweather High” through “Heathering”

1. Identify Melinda’s former “clan” and explain what has happened to it.
2. Who is Melinda’s ex-best friend? How does she treat Melinda?
3. Who is Heather? Identify her plan and explain Melinda’s reaction.
4. How does Mr. Freeman, Melinda’s art teacher, assign projects for the year? What is Melinda’s? How does she feel about it?
5. Describe Melinda’s home life.

Pages 24-26 “Burrow” through “Nightmare”

1. What does Melinda reveal about the preceding summer?
2. What does Melinda paint the week after the pep rally? Why is this significant?
3. How do Melinda’s parents react about her grades?
4. Who are “the Marthas”? Why are they important to the story?

Pages 49-68 “Go_____!” through “First Amendment, Second Verse”

1. What does the social studies class debate? Why? Who challenges the teacher? How does the class session end?
2. Describe the art project Melinda creates from turkey bones. Why does she do this? How do Mr. Freeman and Ivy react?
3. Who is David Petrakis? What significance do you think he has in Melinda’s life?
4. By this point in the novel, does the reader know what “IT” represents?

Pages 69-92 “Wombats Rule!” through “Dark Art”

1. Explain how Melinda feels about Christmas. How does she spend her Christmas vacation?
2. Describe the relationship between Heather and Melinda.
3. What happens to Melinda’s suicide attempt? Do you think she really intends to harm herself?

Pages 95-116 “Death of the Wombat” through “Clash of the Titans”

1. What is the current name for the Merryweather mascot? Why has it been changed?
2. How does Melinda react to the symbols in THE SCARLET LETTER, especially the reference to Hester’s “A”? What do you think this reveals about Melinda?
3. What does Heather tell Melinda when she dissolves their friendship? How does it affect Melinda?
4. What two things cause the conference with Melinda’s parents in the principal’s office? What do the adults want Melinda to do? What does she do?

Pages 116-137 "MISS" through "A Night to Remember"

1. Who gives Melinda a ride to the store where her mother works? What does this person tell her just before they part? Is this important? If so, why?
2. What does Melinda write her extra-credit report about? Explain why she does or does not improve her grade.
3. What happens when Andy Evans finds Melinda alone in the art room? Speculate about what may have happened if Rachel had not appeared.
4. Explain the significance of Melinda's work in the yard.

Pages 168-198 "Fault!" through "Final Cut"

1. What does Melinda write on the bathroom wall? Why is this significant?
2. Why does Heather come to Melinda's house? What is the result? Why is it important?
3. What steps has Melinda taken to improve her life?
4. What happens when Melinda talks to Rachel? Describe the interaction between Rachel and Melinda when Melinda tells her about the rape.
5. What does Ivy show Melinda in the girls' bathroom? What does this say about Andy Evans?

*****CAREFULLY CONSIDER: THE FINAL CONFRONT BETWEEN MELINDA AND ANDY and HOW MELINDA COMPARES HER SURVIVAL TO THE DISEASED TREE*****