

**Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson (47 pts. total)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 1: Story Content (20 pts.)**

**Directions:** Answer the following questions in **COMPLETE SENTENCES** using **SPECIFIC** details from the story to receive full credit.

1. How does Melinda label herself as the story begins? (2 pts.)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Describe the relationship between Melinda and her parents using two examples to support your ideas. (2 pts.)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Merryweather High changes their school mascot four times throughout the course of the novel. What do you think the changing of the mascot tells us about the school district? (2 pts.)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Melinda refers to David Petrakis as her “hero.” Why does Melinda admire him? (2 pts.)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. How is the oak tree in Melinda’s front yard symbolic of her life? Explain your response in detail. (2 pts.)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. After re-living the night of her rape and waking up to find herself still at school, Melinda begins to become more positive. At what point in the novel do you think Melinda first finds her “voice”? Explain when you think this happens, then give at least 2 specific examples to support your reasoning. For example, what happens after that point in the story that proves she is more confident? (4 pts.)

8. Where does Andy Evans trap Melinda while at school & how does Melinda free herself from his attack? Be specific and explain this scene of the story. (2 pts.)

10. Describe Melinda's relationship with Mr. Freeman, using evidence from the novel. (2 pts.)

11. How would YOU label Melinda at the end of the story? WHY would you give her that label? Be specific and give examples from the book to back up your response. (2 pts.)

**Part 2: Matching (12 points)**

**Write the letter of the name that corresponds to the correct answer below. Please WRITE the letter on the space provided. Drawing lines confuses teachers and hurts my eyes. (1 pt. each)**

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| 12. _____ Melinda's lab partner   | (A) Mr. Neck       |
| 13. _____ Melinda's biology teacher                                       | (B) David Petrakis |
| 14. _____ Melinda's social studies teacher                                | (C) The Marthas    |
| 15. _____ Melinda's art teacher   | (D) Ivy            |
| 16. _____ Nicknamed "IT" and "beast"                                      | (E) Andy Evans     |
| 17. _____ Melinda's ex-best friend who dates "IT"                         | (F) Nicole         |
| 18. _____ Melinda's old friend that befriends her in art class            | (G) Rachel Bruin   |
| 19. _____ Group of female students labeled for their need to over-achieve | (H) Ms. Keen       |
| 20. _____ Melinda's "pseudo friend"                                       | (I) Heather        |
| 21. _____ Melinda's old friend and star athlete                           | (J) Mr. Stetman    |
| 22. _____ Melinda's math teacher  | (K) Hairwoman      |
| 23. _____ Melinda's English teacher                                       | (L) Mr. Freeman    |
| 24. _____ Your favorite teacher currently in the room right now           | (M) Mrs. Ness      |

**Part 2: Symbolism (15 pts.)**

**Choose THREE of the quotes below and describe 1) who is speaking and 2) its meaning (what does it *symbolize*?), in 5+ sentences. Make sure to give examples from the book! Write your answers on the back of this sheet, making sure to identify which quotes you chose. (5 pts. each)**

a) "I need a new friend. I need a friend, period. Not a true friend, nothing close or share clothes, or sleepover giggle giggle yak yak. Just a pseudo-friend, disposable friend."

b) "The suffragettes were all about speaking up, screaming for their rights. You can't speak up for your right to be silent. That's letting the bad guys win."

c) "This looks like a tree, but it is an average, ordinary, everyday, boring tree. Breathe life into it. Scar it, give it a twisted branch-perfect trees don't exist. Nothing is perfect. Flaws are interesting. Be the tree."

d) "What seeds need to germinate: Seeds are inefficient. If the seed is planted too deep, it doesn't warm up at the right time. Plant it too close to the surface and a crow eats it. Too much rain and the seed molds. Not enough rain and it never gets started. Even if it does manage to sprout, it can be choked by weeds, rooted up by a dog, mashed by a soccer ball, or asphyxiated by car exhaust. It's amazing how anything survives."

e) "You can't grow a decent tree without roots."

f) "He's not chopping [the tree] down. He's saving it. Those branches were long dead from disease. All plants are like that. By cutting off the damage, you make it possible for the tree to grow again. You watch- by the end of summer, this tree will be the strongest on the block!"

g) "My tree is definitely breathing; little shallow breaths like it just shot up through the ground this morning. This one is not perfectly symmetrical. The bark is rough... Roots know out of the ground and the crown reaches for the sun, tall and healthy. The new growth is the best part."

\*\*\*Extra credit: In the space above, draw a tree that symbolizes Melinda at the end of the book. Be specific and intentional in your drawing to receive extra credit. (+2 pts.)