



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
DR. DANIEL HALE WILLIAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL 180
"A SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE AND OPPORTUNITY"

Marlon Williams
Principal

Jessica Astor
Henry Barrington

Corey Dicker
Astere Yemmer-Brown
Assistant Principals

Summer Reading 8th Grade

June, 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Congratulations! You successfully finished another rigorous school year. Although you may not have been the ones taking the tests, completing the homework assignments and writing the reports, the 180 staff highly values the role you play. We know the tireless support, dedication and motivation you provided throughout your child's schooling. There's no time like the present to begin working toward that goal.

However, with summer quickly approaching, it's extremely important to maintain that academic momentum. Over the vacation, every student **MUST** read the required novel, take detailed notes while reading and complete all graphic organizers. The students must read **pages 3-92** of the novel, Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson. **This book is available via PDF and YouTube and can be found at the websites provided below. Students will also be given a hard copy of the novel. Students are responsible to take care of the novel and return them back to their ELA teacher in September.** In addition, students will be required to use their notes to complete the writing piece that is assigned and due in September upon returning back to school. **Teachers will grade the graphic organizers and writing assignment as part of each student's first marking period literacy grade.** Any student who fails to complete the summer reading assignment and hand it in by **Tuesday, September 8, 2026** will receive a zero, **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Please keep in mind that promotional criteria changes in the eighth grade. Subject grades and test grades are equally balanced. The summer reading is designed to provide a positive boost toward your child's grades in September. In addition, this novel will be the anchor text for our first unit of study throughout the first quarter.

The novel, *Speak*, can also be found at the following link:

SPEAK PDF NOVEL Link

- Google, Speak
- Click on Deer Valley Unified Public School District
- Click on link to PDF

SPEAK AUDIO BOOK (Audiobook)

Please encourage your children to read as much as possible over the summer. Students who read more frequently become stronger readers and are, therefore, more likely to succeed in school and it is recommended that every student read a minimum of 20 minutes an evening. Therefore, we have attached a reading log for your students to fill out as they read an independent reading book or newspaper/magazine articles. Keep in mind that this is separate from the Summer Reading assignment and must be a book of your students choice. A parent signature is required every time your child reads. All ELA teachers are offering 20 extra credit points for a completed reading log, that will be turned in on the same day as the summer reading project.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation,

The Literacy Staff at M.S. 180

Summer Reading Assignment, 2026

Directions:

1. Obtain a notebook that will be used for you to take notes while you read the novel. This will not be graded but keep in mind that the notes you take will provide an advantageous starting point for completing your graphic organizers and then completing your written response and in-class assignments as the first quarter gets underway.
2. You must complete one graphic organizer. Be sure to complete each section of the graphic organizer thoroughly. ****The documents below must be completed on *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson .****
This will be counted towards your first marking period literacy grade. (Worth 50% of this project)
3. On the Google Doc or loose leaf, please complete the extended response using the prompt and outline provided. This will be collected and graded. If you write your extended response, please try your best to make a copy of the assignment prior to the beginning of the school year. (Worth 50% of this project)

Keep in mind...

- Complete the character trait document on pages 3-92 of the novel, Speak. You will use this analysis document to assist you with answering the written response. You **MUST** complete the assignment as your summer reading project.

***Please remember that this will be graded and must be as detailed as possible. Use strategies such as RADDs to answer the prompts in your own words, with details and with textual evidence from the book.**

Grade 8 Literacy SUPPLY LIST Please try and have these items by September 21, 2026

- Two (2) marble composition notebooks
- 1 Folder for ELA
- The following writing utensils:
 - 2 highlighters of different colors
 - 2 packs of pens (blue or black)
 - 1 pack of #2 pencils
 - 1 colored pen (ex. purple, green etc.)
 - Pencil sharpener
 - 1 pack of dry erase markers
- 1 package of loose-leaf
- 1 package of copy paper
- Earbuds/Headphones
- Tissues
- Disinfectant Wipes
- Hand Sanitizer
- 1 roll of paper towels

No White Out, please*

****Students must also have an independent reading book with them every day.****

Responding to Characterization in **Speak** by Laurie H Anderson

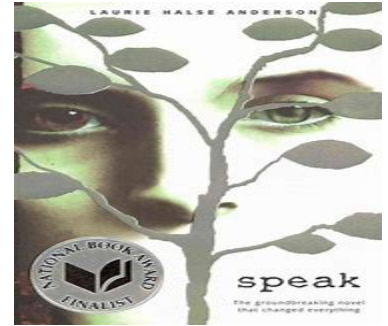
Name:

Class:

Read First and Second Marking Periods periods of **Speak** and complete the graphic organizer on character traits.

PART 1: CHARACTER TRAITS

For each character listed below provide **two traits** that effectively describe them and **then provide two examples/pieces of evidence** from **Speak** for each trait . An example is done for you with the character Melina. **The table will expand as you type.**



Character's Name	Traits	Provide 2 pieces of Textual Evidence for each trait (Include page #'S)
Melinda	1.Observant	• “_Hairwoman waste 20 minutes taking attendance” p.6 • “My Spanish teacher is going to try to get through the entire year without speaking English to us. This is both amusing and useful—makes it much easier to ignore her. She communicates through exaggerated gestures and playacting. It's like taking a class in charades. ” (p. 13)
	2.	
Mr. Neck	1.	
	2.	
Mr. Freeman	1	
	2	

PART 2

Character Analysis Essay on First and Second Marking Periods of Speak by

Laurie H. Anderson

Name:

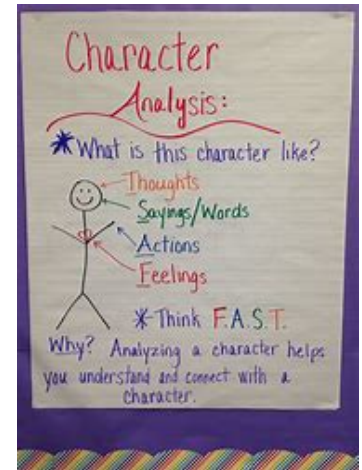
Class:

Select one of the characters listed below from Speak and identify and explain the type of person s/he is . In your response be sure to

- Identify and discuss at least two traits of the character
- Provide at least two pieces of relevant textual evidence to support each trait
- Write in paragraphs and pay attention to punctuation, grammar, and spelling

Characters: Melinda Mr. Neck Mr. Freeman

Type your response in the clear area in the box below. It will expand as you type



Paragraph 1 : Introduction • 2- 3 sentence summary of the story so far. • Mention the author and the title of the book • Make clear the character you essay is focused on and the type of person s/he is and the conflict s/he faced. (Do not provide evidence in the introduction)	
Paragraph 2: • Discuss the first trait of the selected character • Provide at least two pieces of evidence and analysis to support the trait. • Provide a closing sentence	
Paragraph 3 • Discuss the second trait of the selected character • Provide at least two pieces of evidence and analysis to support the trait. • Provide a closing sentence	
Paragraph 4: Conclusion • Summarize the main points of your essay in 3-5 sentences. You may use synonyms in your restating so as not to repeat yourself.	