

Name: _____

Class: _____

Speak Essay Questions

DIRECTIONS: **Pick 3** of the following questions to respond to. **TYPE 2 full analysis paragraphs (5-8 sentences at least) of response to each question.** *Go in depth, consider many points of view, look up definitions, use examples and quotes (with citations) from the book.* You can discuss with other students, parents, or friends, but **you MUST turn in your own paper for credit.**

1. Melinda says: "It is easier not to say anything. Shut your trap, button your lip, can it. All that crap you hear on TV about communication and expressing feelings is a lie. Nobody really wants to hear what you have to say." Do you **agree** with her? **Why or why not?** What events in the novel support or negate her statement? **Does her outlook change** at any point in the novel? **How so?**
2. What roles do **silence** and **truth** play in the story?
3. Why do you think Melinda refers to Andy Evans as "**it**" in the beginning of the novel? At what point does she start to call him by name? Why? Also, consider the "**names**" she gives to her teachers and others in her life. **What is the significance to the titles she gives them rather than calling them by their names?**
4. How does **David Petrakis** contribute to Melinda's quest to find her voice?
5. **Is it possible to speak without spoken words? Why or why not?** Identify passages in the novel to support your position.
6. **What finally allows Melinda to speak? Explain** how & why.