

***** 2019 SUMMER READING *****



Speak

by

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"Speak up for yourself--we want to know what you have to say." From the first moment of her freshman year at Merryweather High, Melinda knows this is a big fat lie, part of the nonsense of high school. She is friendless, outcast, because she busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops, so now nobody will talk to her, let alone listen to her. As time passes, she becomes increasingly isolated and practically stops talking altogether. Only her art class offers any solace, and it is through her work on an art project that she is finally able to face what really happened at that terrible party.

Summer Reading Analysis Assignment

Description/Purpose/Connections

The purpose of this assignment is to respond to your reading by creating a model of your unique understanding. Make it creative and respond imaginatively and honestly. Connect the verbal and the visual by uncovering the book's message(s) and then connecting it to your own thoughts and knowledge through both words and images. The point is to demonstrate your deeper understanding of the novel.

Directions

- **Save a DIGITAL COPY on your iPad (Google Docs or Pages is best)**
- **Bring a PAPER COPY on the first day of your Mentor Group meeting**
- **Avoid plot summary – use your analytical skills**

1. Write an **original statement** (your own words) about what you have read. In the statement, demonstrate *your understanding of the book* and make a *connection to what you are reading*.
2. **Understanding of the book and its theme.** NO PLOT SUMMARY! Make it an original, well-organized paragraph of **at least** 10 sentences in Times New Roman 12-point type. Possible theme ideas include:
 - alienation, estrangement, aloneness
 - change of vision, identity, self-knowledge, recognition, epiphany
 - the breakdown of the individual under the stresses of the modern world
3. Separate from the above paragraph, choose a minimum of **two quotations** and write them on your paper using MLA format for citation. Use these quotes as a springboard to explore your own ideas. **MAKE SURE THE QUOTES HAVE MEANING TO YOU.** **Explain** why you chose these quotes and how they relate to the novel as a whole, particularly the novel's theme. Each quote response should be a minimum of five sentences.
Sample MLA Citation: "Slowly, like a terrier who doesn't want to bring a ball to its master, Lennie approached, drew back, approached again" (27). Link to MLA Style Center: <https://style.mla.org/formatting-papers/>
4. Ask **two open-ended questions** about the book and **answer them**. Make them *thought-provoking*. Neither question should require a one-word or "right or wrong" answer. Think like a teacher trying to spark a discussion. **Sample question:** At times the main character seems mentally unstable, and at other times she seems like a normal teenager. Which is more accurate and why? Use the text to support your answer. (Remember to answer the questions!)
5. On a separate sheet of paper, find/create a **visual(s)** (hand drawing, computer image, magazine clipping, slide show, video, ceramic piece, etc.) to represent your book (no book covers or movie posters). Write at least 10 words and phrases around the image(s). They can be dominant impressions, feelings, or thoughts regarding what you have read. If you have another artistic approach, like creating a sculpture or diorama, feel free to use that form, but include a visual portion and words. If possible, **STAPLE THE VISUAL TO THE BACK OF YOUR WRITTEN PORTION**; otherwise, make sure to include your full name. Be creative!

Create both parts of your final project in a manner that will give your audience **insight** into your thinking and understanding. Feel free to use colored pens, pencils, markers, paint, digital images, etc. The more visually appealing, the better. Be creative!