

Name _____

Speak—Themes, Quotes, and Symbolism—answer all questions on a separate sheet of paper.

Part I--For each of the following themes in *Speak*, find at least 3 quotes that “speak” to that theme.

1. Violence
2. Isolation
3. Education
4. Sadness
5. Friendship
6. Guilt and Blame
7. Transformation

Part II--For each of the following themes in *Speak*, answer the questions.

1. Violence
 - a. Why isn't Melinda sure if what Andy did to her was, in fact, rape?
 - b. What can Melinda do to better prepare in case she's attacked again?
2. Isolation
 - a. Are there other characters who are isolated, besides Melinda?
 - b. Does Melinda benefit at all from being isolated?
3. Education
 - a. What does Melinda learn from Mr. Freeman?
 - b. Does Melinda teach any of the other characters anything?
4. Sadness
 - a. Melinda thinks Mr. Freeman is depressed around the same time that she is. Does his depression have an impact on her?
 - b. What gives Melinda relief from her sadness?
 - c. Does she do things to make her sadness worse?
5. Friendship
 - a. Do you think Melinda and David will become better friends?
 - b. Does *Speak* accurately portray high school friendships?
6. Guilt and Blame
 - a. Why does visiting the spot where she was raped seem to make Melinda feel less guilty?
 - b. Should we blame Melinda's parents for not being able to help her, or for the way they treat her?
7. Transformation
 - a. What are some of Melinda's important changes?
 - b. Why do trees and seeds become so important to Melinda?

Part III—Symbolism—Explain how each symbol listed below relates to *Speak*.

1. The changing seasons
2. Seeds and trees
3. Melinda's grades

