

Speak Summer Reading Questions

Directions: Answer each question with a well-developed paragraph (1/2 page). Cite specific examples from the book and use page numbers to identify those examples. This work must be typed.

1. Define symbolism. Why is the tree Melinda draws throughout the story symbolic? What do its many renditions represent?
2. Discuss at least three relationships Melinda has throughout the story. How does each relationship compare to the last? Why are the people involved in each relationship important to the plot?
3. Throughout the novel, Melinda searches for her identity. Describe the ways in which she changes throughout the story. Do you think she ultimately becomes comfortable with herself? Does she have a clear identity toward the end?
4. Why did Laurie Halse Anderson choose the title? How does Melinda's story fit the title? Why does Melinda act the way she does throughout the novel?
5. Does Melinda represent the typical teenager entering high school? Why or why not? What are some transitions Melinda experiences?
6. How does Melinda respond to Andy Evans? What does his presence do to Melinda physically, emotionally, and mentally? How does she deal with him in the beginning? How does her approach ultimately change? What instigates this change?