

**COURSE TITLE** Honors English 9 (**Grade 9**)

**GRADE** 9

**CHOICE TEXT** *Speak*

**AUTHOR** Laurie Halse Anderson

**GENRE** Contemporary Fiction

**SUMMARY** The reader remains uncertain about the unspeakable event that befalls the main character Belinda. This lack of certainty adds a certain tension and interest as the tale of high school life progresses. Clearly, our main character keenly observes the high school scene. As the narrator examines and microscopically dissects social groups and several individuals, the reader cheers with joy or squirms with discomfort. Issues of friendship, adult responsibility, and coping with serious issues all contribute to a thought-provoking novel that speaks to teens and adults alike.

**SUGGESTED STUDENT RESPONSE (Due the first day of class)**

While you read, annotate the text noting demonstrated ethics (or lack of ethics), themes, and common literary devices. Annotations will be due the first day of class.