

Student Book Review

Speak, by Laurie Halse Anderson

Imagine yourself going to a school where you know everyone hates you but you don't know why? Imagine yourself walking the hallways of your school and know that the people's stares and whispers are about you. Who in this crowd is your real friend? Well, in the novel Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson presents this scene of the book. Anderson reveals the scene of a high school drama between teenagers who faces problems of discrimination, bullying, rape, and gossip. Anderson especially demonstrates every description of each character in her novel that is similar to you or reminds you of someone you might know. It's a book that encourages you to stand up and speak for your rights to survive a big high school drama.

Are you interested yet? Speak is about teenagers lives that have a big high school drama going on. The drama is generally directed to one of the main characters Melinda a ninth grade student barely entering high school and finds herself being bullied by the entire school more specifically the 900 new freshman. Melinda is to face the bullying going around her high school experience. The challenge is set for Melinda on her way to survive high school as she encounters bullying, suicidal feelings, and rape along her way. What happens to Melinda in the end of her first year in high school? You'll need to find out on your own. . .

I chose this book to read about a valuable lesson about High School. For example what to do in situations that seem not to have a solution. I also wanted to understand the reason why people in high school have so much drama and get a bigger picture of why the people are the way they are:

"Rachel is the way she is. She used to call herself my friend but now she hangs with the crowd who most hate me. Backstabber! I hope Aaron breaks her heart then she'll suffer the pain I'm suffering now." (101) The quote illustrated the anger of Melinda for the betrayal of her best friend Rachel. According to the book friendships change from middle school going onto high school when your friend becomes popular and you become an outsider. The quote challenges you to think how loyal you are as a friend and who are your real friends. A perspective to set how high school functions

Speak has many characters that represent each clique you find in a high school. You have the jocks, the Marthas (The popular girls), art geeks, computer geeks, punkers, Goths, nerds, loners, along with other cliques. In the novel there's only one that stands out Melinda the girl that won't speak, the girl that is hate it by many people, the girl with no friends, the girl who is living in silence and close to suicide thoughts. Melinda has a story thoughts the book, many in which she seems predictable but completely does the opposite Anderson brought out a excellent main character in the novel.

Although Melinda presents out a lot of drama and depressing scenes Melinda presents out courage as her way to find the light of hope. "Heather thought to be my friend or at least I thought to be her friend but what kind of friendship is it when she's the one who is bossing me around? I decided to leave Heather and her little friends stay together and I. . I will go off on my own to be independent (120) In this quote you find Melinda standing up for herself after being under controlled by someone other character that called to be leader and boss of Melinda. There's more scenes where you find Melinda standing up for herself but you find Melinda standing up for herself but you find those at the end of the book as conclusion to the novel.

I'm guessing that Anderson wrote this book to give to teens and to parents too so they can look at their teens and know when there's something wrong. Anderson is only trying to give advice throughout a novel that discuss about every real life situation in a teenagers life. Maybe this book is your little ray of light for help. I know this because Anderson expresses difficult situations among teenagers that challenges them. Parents can also learn something in the novel because they can obtain the thoughts of a teenager in Melinda's diary and gain a teenager's real life experience.

Are itching for more? Can you hold breath long enough to get to know more about Melinda's life? Then I recommend you to check out this novel Speak by Lauren Halse Anderson.

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