

SPEAK

Imagine yourself going to a school where you know everyone hates you. 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? Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson is a young adult, realistic fiction novel (198 pages) that tells the story of Melinda Sordino's horrible freshman year in high school. After being raped at a party, Melinda is hated and avoided by her peers because she refuses to say why she called the police. Unable to verbalize what happened, Melinda nearly stops speaking altogether, expressing her voice only through the art she produces for Mr. Freeman's class. Will Melinda ever find her voice and identity again? Will she speak up for herself and reveal the truth?

If you like reading books that deal with real problems that teenagers face, Speak is the novel for you. This compelling novel tackles issues of discrimination, bullying, rape, and gossip. While the book tends to be depressing at first, you will begin to care about the main character Melinda, and start rooting for her to find the courage to speak up. The author does an excellent job of writing in Melinda's point of view and recreating what life in high school and what a life of a teenager is really like. I highly recommend you to check out this novel Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson. You will not regret it, I promise.

"I hate you"

TRUTH

OUTCAST

FIND YOUR VOICE

