Journal Reflection over the First & Second Marking Period in *Speak***In your writers notebook, choose one of the options below and fill at least one entire page with your response. These will be graded based on how well you support your ideas with full explanation and/or quotes from the novel as well as organization, word choice/voice, and sentence fluency/conventions. DUE THURSDAY, SEPT. 4th**

**Option 1:** Have you, or someone close to you, ever been in a situation similar to Melinda’s – left out by the members of your school or neighborhood? If so, what did you do? Compare and contrast your situation to Melinda’s situation in *Speak.* Reference specific moments from the novel and include the page number.   
  
**Option 2:** Melinda describes high school as “one long hazing activity” (19). [Hazing is any intentional activity that causes someone embarrassment, or physical/emotional harm.] Give specific examples from the story to prove *why* she holds this opinion and include the page numbers. In the next paragraph, explain if you agree or disagree with her opinion based on your own high school experiences thus far.  
  
**Option 3:** Melinda’s parents argue often and don’t communicate well. What could they do to improve their communication? How do you think their arguing and lack of communication skills affect Melinda?

**Option 4:** Merryweather High’s mascot is constantly changing. What are the book’s reasons for changing the mascot every time? Authors often use symbols to stand for something else. Why do you think Anderson wrote *Speak* and included so many mascot changes? What bigger idea might this represent? Use evidence from the book to defend your idea.

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