

**Caring** - "I must talk to Rachel" (Page 117)



**Melinda**

**Strong** - "And I'm not going to let it kill me. I can grow" (Page 128)



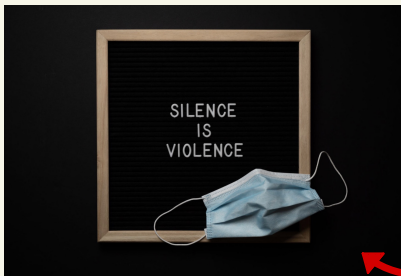
**Negative** - "I have entered high school with the wrong hair, the wrong clothes, the wrong attitude. And I don't have anyone to sit with. I am Outcast" (Page 9)



**Symbolic Picture** - This picture represents the novel because it shows that Melinda wasn't able to speak because of her fear. So the hand that is covering the girl's mouth is the fear / her trauma with raping. The hand could also represent Andy Evans, who raped her. "Its getting harder to talk" (Page 38) "I want to leave, transfer, wrap myself to another galaxy. I want to confess everything" (Page 38)



**Theme** - The main theme of the novel is "Speaking vs Silent" Throughout the novel Melinda always keeps quiet and does not tell anyone about her experience with rape and the reasoning for calling the police at the party. But at the end Melinda overcomes her trauma by speaking up.



# "Speak"

## By: Laurie Halse Anderson

**Tone** : Pensive, Hopeless

"We are nobody" (Page 28)



**Setting** - The novel took place in Syracuse, New York. There is no significant time the novel took place. It took place in Syracuse because the author has actually lived in Syracuse starting from first grade, and the author has actually experienced rape in her teenage life. So she made the story take place in Syracuse.

**Symbol: Closet = Escape from reality**

**Rising Action:** Andy Evans, who raped Melinda, starts flirting with Melinda's ex-best friend Rachel. Melinda is also assigned to draw a tree in art class. Melinda also finds a closet that is not used to hide away in school.

**Symbol: Mirror = Truth**

**Climax:** Melinda ends up telling Rachel what happened at the party and tells her to be careful of Andy Evans.

**Symbol: Blood = Life and Death**

**Falling Action:** Andy Evans attacks and tries to rape Melinda again in her school closet after Rachel has ditched him. But this time Melinda screams "no" and speaks up for herself.

**Symbol: Lips = Melinda**

**Exposition:** Melinda gets hate by everyone for calling the police at the summer party. So Melinda's high school year starts off by everyone hating her and having no friends. Melinda also does not speak which makes her lips all crusty and bloody. She has also turned to an introvert.

**Symbol: Tree = Growth**

**Resolution:** Everyone ends up knowing why Melinda called the police at the party and forgives her. Melinda isn't afraid anymore and starts to speak again.