

WHS Book Rationale

Title: Speak

Author: Laurie Halse Anderson

- **Intended Audience**
 - English 9 and Honors English 9

- **Brief summary and educational significance**
 - An adolescent girl starts her freshmen year of high school as an outcast.
 - After reading, the reader begins to unravel the reason.
 - She called the cops on a summer party after being raped.
 - By the end of the novel, she is able to open up about the incident.
 - National Book Award finalist

- **Purpose of teaching the work and how it will be used**
 - Teach point of view, theme, plot elements, symbolism, empathy, importance of speaking out
 - inspire love of reading
 - explore relevant connections to high school life such as social issues

- **Potential problems**
 - Language, rape, underage drinking, stereotypes

- **Addressing potential problems**
 - Provide opportunities to discuss choices and consequences for actions
 - Provide opportunities to discuss the importance of speaking out if someone is sexually assaulted
 - Allow opportunities to write about personal connections with the text
 - Allow opportunities to discuss high school dynamics, stereotyping, judging