

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Speak First Marking Period Discussion Questions**

**Answer all questions on a separate sheet of paper!**

1. Analyze Melinda's reaction to the first day of high school and why her fears seem more intense than that of others. Why does she say, "I am Outcast." (3 – 5)
2. What are "clans"? (4)
3. Write down the "first ten lies they tell you in high school." Is Melinda's assumption that they are "lies" valid? Explain. (5 – 6)
4. Examine Melinda's characterization of the teachers and explain what this reflects. (6 – 7, 10, 13, 17)
5. What is Mr. Freeman's approach to teaching art? What do you think about this type of teaching style? (9 – 12)
6. What is Melinda's home life like? (14 – 17)
7. Describe the interaction between Melinda and Heather.
8. Explain Melinda's "place of refuge" and how she describes it. (25 – 26)
9. Describe what happens to Melinda during the first pep rally and what the events reveal. Why do you think Melinda called the cops at the party? (26 – 30)
10. Explain the significance of Melinda's painting for a week after the pep rally. (30 – 31)
11. Contrast the homes and families of Heather and Melinda. (32 – 33)
12. Describe Melinda's confrontation with her parents over her grades. How would your parents react? (35 – 36)
13. Trace significant events in Melinda's life following the confrontation with her parents. (37 – 45)
14. Analyze the significance of Melinda's nightmare about IT. What do you think IT symbolizes? (45 – 46)
15. **Prediction:** Will Melinda continue to remain silent about what happened at the party? Why or why not?