
English I

Summer Reading

2019-2020

Prior to the first day of school, every incoming ninth grader is required to read the novel, *Speak*, by Laurie Halse Anderson. Students must also read the short story, "All Summer in a Day", by Ray Bradbury. Ray Bradbury's "All Summer in a Day" can be found online. Students will submit the assignments accompanying *Speak* the first, full week of school and complete an exam pertaining to the plot the second, full week of school.

Directions: As you read *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson, complete the following tasks on loose leaf. **This assignment will be due to your English teacher the first, full week of school.**

Speak

by Laurie Halse Anderson

Part I

Identify and describe the following characters. Each description must be a minimum of 2-4 complete sentences. In addition to basic identification, include his/her role in the storyline as well as his/her relationship to **Melinda's** character.

Characters:

- Melinda Sordino
- Andy Evans
- Heather
- Mr. Freeman
- David Petrakis
- Ivy
- Mr. Neck
- Melinda's parents
- Melinda's Principal

Part II

Summarize **five** significant key events that led to **Melina Sordino's** character growth throughout the course of the novel. Describe the event and explain why it is significant. Each summary should be 3-4 complete sentences.

English I
Summer Reading Study Guide
“All Summer in a Day”

Background

“All Summer in a Day” takes place on the planet Venus in a future world where “rocket men and women,” as Bradbury calls them, have come to live and set up a colony. Bradbury’s description of Venus and its weather patterns is entirely fictional. As the second planet from the sun in our solar system, Venus is actually very hot and dry - and has no water.

Bradbury wrote his story in 1959, during a period (roughly 1957-1975) when the space race between the United States and the Soviet Union was in full swing. The two countries were in competition to see who would reach the moon first and who would go the farthest to make space travel a reality. Nine years after this story was written, the United States made the first moon landing, and many people thought it would not be long before spaceships made it to Mars and other planets.

On the planet Venus - as imagined by Bradbury - the sun appears for only two hours every seven years. A class of nine-year olds eagerly awaits a brief glimpse of the sun, especially one student named Margot.

Source: Beers, Kyleene. *Holt Elements of Literature*. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 2010.

Study Guide Questions

Directions: On a separate sheet of paper, answer each question with complete sentences. Each answer must provide a clear response to the question, and provide at least two specific examples to support the answer.

1. How does the setting impact the atmosphere of the story?
2. How do the other children feel toward Margot? Why do you think this is the case?
3. What do you think is the meaning of the title to the story?
4. What do you think this society on the planet Venus values?
5. Why doesn’t Margot interact with the other children? What causes the conflict between Margot and the other children?
6. The theme of a story comments on the ideas society is upholding as well as how individuals are conducting themselves in accordance with these ideas. What theme do you think Bradbury was trying to express through this story?