

SPEAK

GO _____ (FILL IN THE BLANK)!

- The Ecology Club protested that the Tigers should be their mascot since it is an endangered species
- The school board decided to make a 'democratic' assembly to choose their mascot
- The student council will hold an election before winter break: the bees, icebergs, hill toppers, and wombats
- Changing their mascot multiple times means the school in general, including Melinda, is having problems finding their identity and is unsure about it. The school board cares more about how they are perceived by others instead of caring about the students (Melinda)

CLOSET SPACE

- Melinda's parents obligated her to stay afterschool everyday for extra help from teachers, afterschool she stays in her "burrow" (old janitor closet) and cleans it and maintains it. This means hiding and escaping is the only way she thinks she can deal with her problem.
- Melinda puts up a Maya Angelou poster in her "burrow" since the school banned some of her books and the librarian gave her the poster, Maya Angelou writes in a provocative way since she defends women's rights and encourages speaking up.
- Hiding her secret, she has been affected physically
 - Lips ruined because of biting them when nervous
 - Throat sore
 - Jaws clenched
 - She describes it as "spastic laryngitis" (51)
- Melinda feels the need to confess her secret since it haunts her

ALL TOGETHER NOW

- The Spanish teacher breaks her no English policy and warns the kids who have not been doing homework since they claim they don't understand
- Melinda chooses five verbs to conjugate for her homework:
 - Translate: translating is related to speaking and communication, it relates to her since she's not speaking
 - Flunk: she's flunking school
 - Hide and escape: she's escaping problems, and burdens she holds
 - Forget: She wants to forget what happened at the party (Andy Evans (IT) raped her)

JOB DAY

- Melinda takes a test along her high school to figure out her job, by taking the test these are her options: forestry, firefighting, communications, and mortuary science.
- Heather's results determine she would be a nurse and starts planning her future, while Melinda thinks she doesn't have the ability to look at the future, but only focus on the present.

First Amendment

- Mr. Neck starts talking about how his son didn't get a job, he claims it's reverse discrimination and that they should have closed their borders in 1900, and he starts a debate
- The title of the section is the "First Amendment" which talks about freedom and freedom of speech.
- Students protest and show their points of view, since Mr. Neck doesn't agree, he ends the debate
- David Petrakis protests and says the debate shall continue, when Mr. Neck threatens him, he leaves the room, gaining respect from Melinda, which foreshadows their friendship

Giving Thanks

- Melinda captures her family failing by “capturing” the moments with an imaginary Kodak camera. She believes her parents might get divorced if the turkey fails.
- Extended Metaphor: compares the turkey to an iceberg and the titanic sinking is compared to her family. The whole situation is compared to the titanic catastrophe.
- Melinda’s mom is called a various times until she leaves, her dad takes over and tries to do a turkey soup, but fails in the process so they have pizza.

Wishbone

- Melinda wants to make a memorial out of the turkey lost in Thanksgiving so she takes it to art class.
- Melinda notices Mr. Freeman’s painting, which shows the school board members as evil
- Melinda’s project: She glues the block of wood, arranging it like a museum exhibit and places an knife and fork as legs, she also glues a Barbie dolls head with a taped mouth
- Ivy observes her artwork and does not want to look at it for too long. Ivy and Melinda are connected by Art
- Mr. Freeman sees pain in her artwork and Melinda leaves immediately since she is not comfortable talking about it.

PEELED AND CORED

- In Biology class, they have to dissect apples
- The smell of apples triggers Melinda’s flashback, when she was little, her parents took her to an orchard and her dad set her in an apple tree (happy memory)
- Melinda bites her apple and Petrakis scorns her, she finds a seed growing out of another seed, the teacher gives her extra credit. This seed growing on another symbolizes that through experiences, deep inside her there is a potential blossom and eventually grow

FIRST AMENDMENT, SECOND VERSE

- David Petrakis is a hero, as described by Melinda, and is not afraid to speak and stand out.
- During the class, Mr. Neck stares at David, the next day David set up a camera at the back of the classroom

WOMBATS RULE

- The school’s new mascot is the Wombats, since there was an election and only few votes were not write-ins.

WINTER BREAK

- In this section, Melinda wants to be young again. Melinda’s childhood is another thing Andy Evans/IT took away from her.
- Melinda shows very low self-esteem in this section, she believes that if she speaks about her secret, her parents might divorce.
- Her parents give her a sketch pad with charcoal pencils, this triggers Melinda’s breakdown since she notices her parents paid her some attention to her and realized she had been drawing. This makes her feel closer to them at the moment and she wants to blurt out her secret but cant

HARD LABOR

- Melinda’ parents said she cannot be lounging in the living room all Winter Break, so they bring her to work, at both jobs she didn’t do a well job and is grateful school finally came

FOUL

- Melinda proves her skill in free shots, the coach wants her for the team, but she cannot enter because of her bad grades

- The teacher promised her she would give her an A; if she taught the basketball team how to throw free shots. Melinda will decide not to show up

COLORING OUTSIDE THE LINES

- Melinda notices Mr. Freeman's painting is coming along great, the school boards are portrayed as villains/ traitors.
- Melinda decides she will be an artist if she grows up (78); Mr. Freeman serves as an inspiration to Melinda.

POSTER CHILD

- Heather is having trouble meeting the Martha's standard, she has to do posters for the can drive, since Melinda draws better than she does, Heather asks Melinda to do the posters. Melinda does not answer

DEAD FROGS

- In biology class, Melinda has to dissect a frog, the frog pinned down and speechless reminds her of her on the floor being raped by Andy Evans.
- She faints and hits her head on the table, needing stitches, on the hospital the doctor looks her in the eye and Melinda is afraid she might "see" her secret.
- Melinda claims she would need brain surgery since she cannot forget what happened, she being raped.

MODEL CITIZEN

- Heather gets a modeling job and her reputation goes up. Melinda goes to the bathing suit shoot with Heather, while Heather's mom is driving.
- Melinda covers her lips since she doesn't want Heather's mom to look at them from the mirror.

DEATH BY ALGEBRA

- Mr. Stetman, the math teacher, decides to teach the students how Algebra will help them in math, but fails

WORD WORK

- Hairwoman gives them a lot of essays and some are fun, Melinda says words are a lot of work.

NAMING THE MONSTER

- Melinda works on Heather's poster for the can drive.
- Melinda is hanging the posters when IT/Andy Evans approaches her and whispers "Freshmeat" (86)

RENT ROUND 3

- The school's guidance counselor calls Melinda's attitude and grades
- Melinda writes a runaway note and hides in the closet, she scratches herself with a paper clip but her mom finds her and says suicide is for cowards

CAN IT

- Melinda sits along Heather on the Martha's table, the Martha's start criticizing the posters Melinda made, they scorn Heather, but she does not stand up for Melinda's work, which shows us she is a bad friend.
- IT/Andy Evans walks in the cafeteria, Emily and Siobhan, the Martha's, star blushing and flirting with him
- Melinda describes him as the "Prince of Darkness" (90)

DARK ART

- Mr. Freeman gave out almost an A to everyone, so the school board gets mad and cuts down his supplies, he is sad and slices his painting in half, since he is Melinda's role model, this affects her as well