



MOMS FOR LIBERTY – HERNANDO COUNTY CHAPTER CURRICULUM & MATERIALS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Committee Chair: Julia Thomas

PO Box 1568 – Brooksville, Florida, 34605

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Hernando County School District
919 North Broad Street.
Brooksville, FL 34601

RE: SHS “Speak: A Graphic Novel”
(M4LHC – 036/2023)

October 3, 2023

Hernando County School District,

You will find an attached official challenge request from (M4LHC 036-23) for “*Speak: A Graphic Novel*” which is currently located at Springstead High School’s media center. This book was discovered back on August 3, 2023.

Speak: A Graphic Novel “contains sexual age-inappropriate, **profanity; alcohol use involving minors; controversial social commentary; self-harm including anorexia, and suicidal ideations; sexual activities; and sexual assault against a minor.** The book clearly shows a warning label for 18 years of age and up.

The actions of the media specialist or administrative staff in selecting this book currently violates H.B 467 s. 847.012 (b) that media specialists are responsible for selecting books free of pornographic and sexually explicit materials. Furthermore, the Hernando County School District is also in violation of H.B 1557 for teaching and/ or introducing sexual orientation and gender identity to children, as well as multiple provisions of H.B. 1069.

As the newly elected Committee Chair for the Curriculum and Materials Review Committee of the Hernando County Chapter of Moms for Liberty, I remind you that besides the District of Hernando County Schools being in violation, it is not the responsibility of the District or any staff employed by the District to make a decision concerning these mature topics. District Staff should not be encouraging minors to read a book for adults only.

In closing, I’m calling on the Hernando County School Board to remove this book, from Springstead High School effective immediately, and in accordance with District Policy (*Media Specialist Handbook*), and H.B. 1069 which both clearly state that books can’t be “disappeared” (*i.e., hidden*) but instead properly disposed of not only through steps outlined in the Media Specialist Handbook regarding the disposal of books, but also accurately noted as disposed of in Alexandria as outlined in H.B. 1069.

In Liberty,

Julia Thomas

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

Request for Reconsideration of Media Materials/Instructional Materials

Instructions: Complete and return this form with all materials to be reviewed.

Please type or print..

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL APPLICABLE INFORMATION:

Have you read or viewed the entire material? Yes

Request Initiated by (first and last name JT

Address : PO Box 1568 City Brooksville State FL Zip Code 34605

Telephone _____ Email (optional)

M4IHernando.CMRCCChair@gmail.com

Date of Request:

October 3, 2023

Author: Laurie Haise Anderson & Emily Carroll

Title: Speak: The graphic novel

Publisher, Date of Publication/Production, Type of Media: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2018

School(s) in which item is used: Sprinstead High School

What first prompted your concern? Please See Attached

To what in the material do you object? (Please be specific, cite pages, frames, etc. Attach additional pages if necessary) Please See Attached

Are you aware of the judgement of this educational material by literary and/or authoritative critics?

Yes X No _____

If yes, where? Name and date of publication: GoodReads 2019, 2023

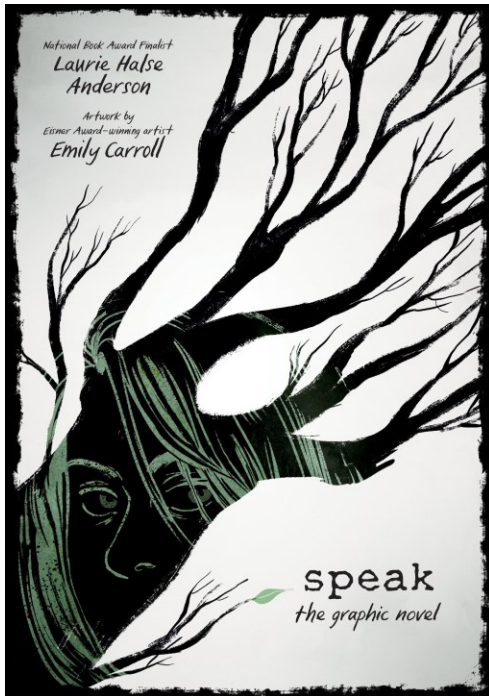
Complainant's Signature

Julia Thomas

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

Date October 3, 2023

SPEAK: THE GRAPHIC NOVEL



Young Adult Graphic Novel

Book Summary:

A teenage girl has difficulties in school and home after keeping her sexual assault a secret.

Summary of Concerns:

This book contains profanity; alcohol use involving minors; controversial social commentary; self-harm including anorexia, and suicidal ideations; sexual activities; and sexual assault.

By Laurie Halse Anderson

ISBN: 978-0-374-30028-9



3
/5

Minor Restricted
BookLooks Review Rating

Page	Content
3	"Trojan means condom, and that wasn't a strong abstinence message he said. Better the devil you know than the Trojan you don't, I guess.
32	The illustration on the bottom right of the page depicts a teenage girl with a cigarette in her mouth.
33	The illustration on the top of the page depicts a teenage girl in a bathroom, with a smoking cigarette in her fingers near her mouth.
76	I think overbearing Eurocentric Patriarchs would be perfect, but I don't mention it.
85	"So tell me why my son can't get a job. I'll tell you why- REVERSE DISCRIMINATION."
87	"...As a citizen and a student, I am protesting the tone of this lesson as racist, intolerant, and xenophobic."
88	"...I try to get a debate going and you people turn it into a race thing. Sit down or you're going to the principal."
101	"The knife and fork are obviously middle-class sensibilities..."
123	I only get two days of vacation before my parents force me into illegal child labor.
143	She has stopped eating and bitches about retaining water all the time.
144	This week she's down to a size one and she's killing herself to get down to a size zero.
154	The illustration on the bottom of the page depicts a teenage girl's arm with several horizontal lines across the forearm. She is holding a modified paperclip to her arm next to a line. The text on the page reads: If a suicide attempt is a cry for help... ...then what is this? A whimper? A peep? <i>See Figure 1.</i>
241	He kissed me, man kiss, hard, sweet, and deep.
242	The illustrations on the bottom of the page depict a man holding the back of woman's head while forcefully kissing her lips. The illustration below the above, depicts two people's thighs while wearing jeans. One person has their leg pressed into the groin of the other one with their hand on the other person's outer buttock. The illustration on the bottom depicts a person's shoulder leaning into a woman. The woman's hand is pushing on the other person's shoulder as the other person is grasping her left breast. The text on the page reads: He was getting rude, but my tongue was thick with beer. <i>See Figure 2.</i>
243	The illustration on the top of the page depicts a couple kissing. The woman is pushing the man's right shoulder back as his right hand is reaching under her shirt toward her left breast.

Page	Content
245	The illustration on this page depicts a man lying on top of a woman from a posterior view. The woman's left hand is clinched in a fist while the man is tightly holding her wrist. The text on the page reads: No. I do not like this. ...His lips lock on mine and I can't say anything.
246	There is a boulder on top of me. In my head I'm screaming NO, I DON'T WANT TO! But no one can hear me. He makes sure of that.
247	...crimping my hair and gluing on fake nails and he smells like beer and mean and he hurts me and hurts me AND HURTS ME AND...he smiles.
252	"We are THE HORNETS, HORNY, HORNY HORNETS!!!..."
297	Was I raped?
298	"You said 'no.' He covered your mouth. You were thirteen years old. Just because you were drinking didn't give him permission to have sex. You didn't give him your consent." "Didn't you ever think of telling anyone? You were raped."
318	The climax of mating season is nearly upon us: the Senior Prom.
329	I stand on the edge of a cliff, wondering if I'm going to fall or jump.
331	I didn't call the cops to break up the party. I called cuz... a guy raped me. Under the trees. I was stupid and drunk and I didn't know what was happening and he raped me.
345	The illustration on the middle upper area of the page, depicts a man pulling up a woman's dress. She is pushing his right chest away. The illustration on the upper right of the page depicts the same couple described above. The man has his right hand on her left breast as her face looks toward the audience in disgust. The text on the page reads: When she told him to stop humping her on the dance floor, he ignored her. <i>See Figure 3.</i>
350	"Rachel said you're spreading some bullshit story about me raping you. I never raped anybody. I don't have to. Every girl in school is talking about me like I'm some kind of pervert."
351	"What's wrong ugly? Haven't been able to get any since that night?"

Profanity	Count
Ass	1
Bitch	5
Piss	2
Shit	2

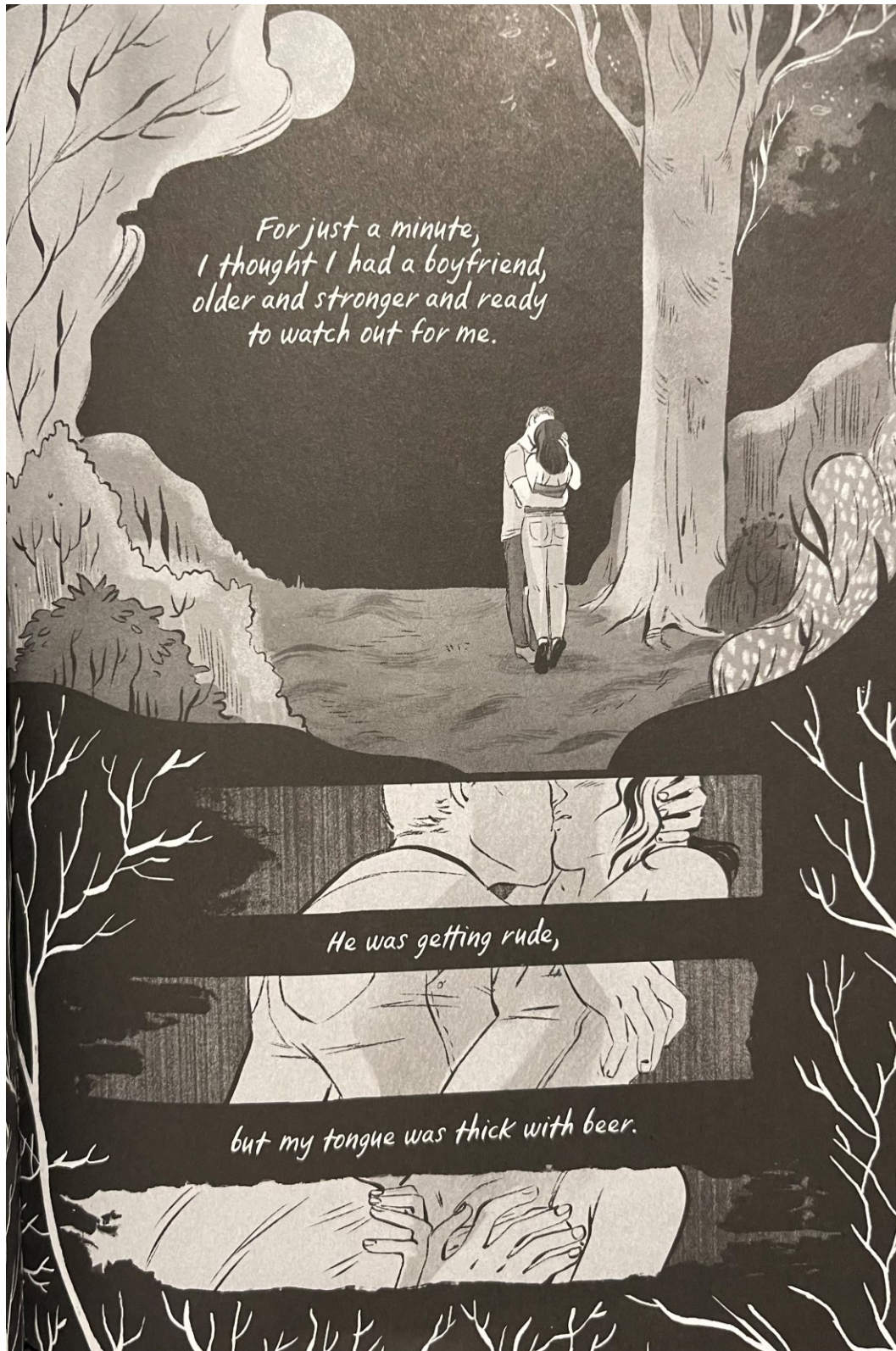


Figure 2



Figure 3

Study Programs Medium Genre

Tags

Smart Search SPEAK THE GRAPHIC NOVEL

Temp List

1 Results



741.5 AND -G

★★★★★ (0)

Speak: the graphic novel

Anderson, Laurie Halse.

Carroll, Emily,
[graphic novel] (2018.)

Graphic novel adaptations

Laurie Halse Anderson ; artwork by Emily Carr...
Farrar Straus Giroux,
371 p. :chiefly ill. ;22 cm.
9780374300289

A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.

High schools
Schools
Emotional problems
Rape

Details Copies

Windows



9:59 PM
8/3/2023



Study Programs

Medium

Genre

Tags

Smart Search

Speak the Graphic



Temp List



1 Result

1 of 1 Copies

Site ID	Call Number	Vol	Loc1 -- Loc2	Barcode	Status -- Due Date	Map
SPRI	741.5 AND -G		Graphic novels	50847	Available	

Universal Book Content (UBC) Rating

0	1	2	3	4	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mild Non-Explicit Violence No Nudity No Profanity No References to Sexual Activities No Drug or Alcohol Use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mild Non-Explicit Violence Non-Sexual Nudity No Profanity No References to Sexual Activities Mentioning of Drug or Alcohol Use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate Violence Non-Sexual Nudity Moderate Profanity Inexplicit Sexual Activities Drug or Alcohol Use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explicit Violence Sexual Nudity Explicit or Frequent Use of Profanity Sexual Activities <small>No penetration, cunnilingus, fellatio, or ejaculation</small> Drug or Alcohol Abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aberrant Violence Explicit Sexual Activities <small>Ejaculation and Sexual Penetration (oral, anal, vaginal, fingering)</small> Explicit or Frequent use of Profanity Aberrant Drug or Alcohol Abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explicit References to Aberrant Sexual Activities
Appropriate for all audiences	Might have minor issues for young readers	Suggested minimum younger teen	Suggested minimum older teen	Definitely adult only content	Might be arrested for reading at school board meetings