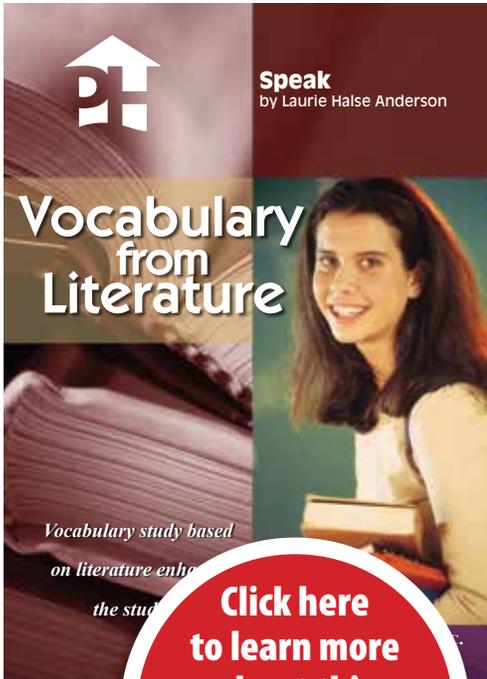




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*Vocabulary From Literature for...*

# *Speak*

*by Laurie Halse Anderson*

written by Nicole Guertin

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**Table of Contents**

Information for Instructors .....	4
<b>First Marking Period</b>	
Activity I .....	6
Activity II .....	7
Activity III .....	11
Activity IV .....	15
Activity V .....	18
Activity VI .....	19
<b>Second Marking Period</b>	
Activity I .....	20
Activity II .....	21
Activity III .....	26
Activity IV .....	30
Activity V .....	32
Activity VI .....	33
<b>Third Marking Period</b>	
Activity I .....	34
Activity II .....	35
Activity III .....	39
Activity IV .....	43
Activity V .....	46
Activity VI .....	47
<b>Fourth Marking Period</b>	
Activity I .....	48
Activity II .....	49
Activity III .....	54
Activity IV .....	58
Activity V .....	60
Activity VI .....	61
Vocabulary Test .....	62
Glossary .....	64
Answer Key for Activities .....	72
Answer Key for Crossword Puzzles .....	80
Test Student Answer Sheet .....	82
Test Answer Key .....	83

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*Vocabulary From Literature*

**Activity I**  
**Matching Definitions**  
**First Marking Period**

**Directions:** Match each of the following words with its definition based on the context in which the word appears in the book. Use the page numbers in parentheses to locate the word. Then, look up the word in the dictionary and change any answers that are not correct.

blathers (33)	deprived (36)	dumpy (21)	floundering (31)
hostile (28)	hulk (28)	intently (29)	ovation (28)
rant (31)	reincarnated (29)	russet (42)	sacred (41)
sarcasm (27)	scheming (23)	suburbia (7)	synchronized (29)
testament (7)			

- \_\_\_\_\_ a statement, object, or event that proves worth, virtue, or effectiveness
  - \_\_\_\_\_ with focused attention
  - \_\_\_\_\_ a reddish-brown
  - \_\_\_\_\_ the communities on the outskirts of a city
  - \_\_\_\_\_ an expression of praise, especially by enthusiastic applause
  - \_\_\_\_\_ to move clumsily because of large size
  - \_\_\_\_\_ short and thick in build
  - \_\_\_\_\_ failing to achieve the intended effect; moving clumsily
  - \_\_\_\_\_ talks foolishly on and on
  - \_\_\_\_\_ planning or plotting
  - \_\_\_\_\_ to talk in a noisy and argumentative manner
  - \_\_\_\_\_ highly valued; worthy of devotion
  - \_\_\_\_\_ reborn into another human form
  - \_\_\_\_\_ taken away from; withheld
  - \_\_\_\_\_ a witty remark made to be cutting or to express bitterness
  - \_\_\_\_\_ at the same time
  - \_\_\_\_\_ intensely opposed to and possibly violent
-

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*Vocabulary From Literature*

4. Thwap! A lump of potatoes and gravy hits me square in the center of my chest. All conversation stops as the entire lunchroom **gawks**, my face burning into their retinas. I will be forever known as “that girl who got nailed by potatoes the first day.” The Basketball Pole apologizes and says something else, but four hundred people explode in laughter and I can’t read lips. (Pg. 8)

Synonym for **gawks**:

5. I tune out for a while and come back when he holds up a huge globe that is missing half of the Northern Hemisphere. “Can anyone tell me what this is?” he asks. “A globe?” **ventures** a voice in the back. Mr. Freeman rolls his eyes. “Was it an expensive sculpture that some kid dropped and he had to pay for it out of his own money or they didn’t let him graduate?” asks another. (Pg. 11)

Synonym for **ventures**:

6. Principal Principal: “Where’s your late pass, mister?”  
Errant Student: “I’m on my way to get one now.”  
PP: “But you can’t be in the hall without a pass.”  
ES: “I know, I’m so upset. That’s why I need to hurry, so I can get a pass.”  
Principal Principal pauses with a look on his face like Daffy Duck’s when Bugs is pulling a fast one.  
PP: “Well, hurry up, then, and get that pass.”  
Errant Student races down hall, waving and smiling. Principal Principal walks the other way, replaying the conversation in his mind, trying to figure out what went wrong. I **ponder** this and laugh. (Pgs. 17-18)

Synonym for **errant**:

Synonym for **ponder**:

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*Vocabulary From Literature*

11. The cheerleaders cartwheel into the gym and **bellow**. The crowd stomps the bleachers and roars back. I put my head in my hands and scream to let out the animal noise and some of that night. No one hears. They are all quite spirited. (Pg. 28)

Synonym for **bellow**:

12. But they are so cute. And they cheer on our boys, **inciting** them to violence and, we hope, victory. These are our role models—the Girls Who Have It All. I bet none of them ever stutter or screw up or feel like their brains are dissolving into marshmallow fluff. (Pg. 30)

Synonym for **inciting**:

13. David ignores me mostly, except when I almost ruined the \$300 microscope by twisting the knob the wrong way. That was the day Ms. Keen wore a purple dress with bright blue roses. **Baffling**. They shouldn't let teachers change like that without some kind of Early Warning Alert. It shakes up the students. That dress was all anyone talked about for days. She hasn't worn it since. (Pg. 37)

Synonym for **baffling**:

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*S p e a k*

Activity III  
Writing Definitions and Sentences  
from Context Clues  
First Marking Period

**Directions:** For each highlighted word, write a definition that fits the context of the passage. Then, check your answers by looking the words up in the dictionary. Finally, write a sentence using each word.

1. The school board has decided that “Merryweather High—Home of the Trojans” didn’t send a strong **abstinence** message, so they have transformed us into the Blue Devils. Better the Devil you know than the Trojan you don’t, I guess. School colors will stay purple and gray. The board didn’t want to **spring** for new uniforms. Older students are allowed to roam until the bell, but ninth-graders are herded into the auditorium. We fall into clans: Jocks, Country Clubbers, Idiot Savants, Cheerleaders, Human Waste, Eurotrash, Future Fascists of America, Big Hair Chix, the Marthas, Suffering Artists, **Thespians**, Goths, Shredders. I am clanless. (Pgs. 3-4)

**abstinence:**

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**spring:**

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---

**thespians:**

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*Vocabulary From Literature*

**Activity V**  
**Roots, Prefixes, and Suffixes**  
**First marking Period**

- A. The word **synchronize** comes from the Greek prefix *syn*, meaning “together,” and the Greek word *chronos*, meaning “time.”

Complete the *chron* words in the left column below. Then match each one to its proper definition on the right.

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. c_____ ic    | A. an ordering of events by time               |
| 2. anac_____    | B. happening over and over again               |
| 3. chron_____ y | C. something placed in the wrong time          |
| 4. _____ r      | D. a device that measures time very accurately |

- B. The word **terminal** means “certain to end in death.” It comes from the Latin word meaning “to end,” *terminare*.

Match each word below to its definition. Circle the one that does not come from *terminare*.

- |                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1. terminate    | A. a stopping point  |
| 2. exterminate  | B. to wipe out       |
| 3. interminable | C. to end            |
| 4. termite      | D. a wood-eating bug |
| 5. terminus     | E. going on and on   |