

## **Speak Body Biography**

For your chosen character, your group will be creating a body biography. This is a **visual** and **written** portrait illustrating several aspects of the character's life within *Speak*. Drawings and writings are both inside and surrounding the character.

You have many possibilities for filling up your giant sheet of paper. Listed are several ideas, but you are encouraged to come up with your own. The choices **must** be based on the text because you will be explaining them at a showing of your work. Above all, your choices should be creative, analytical, and accurate.

When representing or showing your work to the class, certain objectives must be accomplished. Your body biography should:

- Review significant events, choices and changes involving your character
- Communicate the full essence of your character by emphasizing traits that make him/her who he/she is
- Connect your character to major themes in the novel

### **Body Biography Requirements**

Your portrait must contain:

- A review of significant happenings in the story so far
- Visual symbols
- An original text (creative writings by the group: poem, letter, email, etc)
- Two important quotes about your character so far (could be something your character said or something someone else said about your character) and an explanation as to why you chose each quote

### **Body Biography Suggestions:**

1. Placement - think about where symbols and dialogue/quotes are placed. For example, the area where your character's heart would be might be appropriate for illustrating the important relationships within his or her life.
2. Spine - a character's spine is his/her objective within the story. What is the most important goal for your character? What drives his/her thoughts and actions? This is his/her spine.
3. Virtues and Vices - what are your character's most admirable and worst qualities? How can you visualize them?
4. Colors - colors are often symbolic. What color(s) do you most associate with your character? Why? How can these be effectively presented in your body biography?
5. Symbols - what objects can you associate with your character that illustrate his/her essence? Are there objects mentioned in the story or additional ones that seem to correspond with the character?
6. Mirror, Mirror - consider both how your character appears to others on the surface and what you know about the character's inner self. Do these images clash or correspond? What does this tell you about the character?
7. Changes - how has your character changed within the story? Visualize or trace these changes.

## Body Biography Rubric

### An **A** Body Biography:

- Contains all 4 body biography requirements (a review of significant happenings of the story, visual symbols, an original text, two important quotes by/about your character)
- Is an accurate depiction of the character (based on evidence from the story)
- Creatively represents character traits and actions
- Exemplifies connections to major themes in the story
- Prepared to explain and answer questions about your body biography during your presentation

### A **B** Body Biography:

- Contains all 4 body biography requirements
- Is an accurate depiction of character
- Character traits and actions are represented, but not very creatively
- Limited connections to major themes in the story
- Somewhat prepared to explain and answer questions about your body biography during your presentation

### A **C** Body Biography:

- Contains only 3 body biography requirements
- Does not accurately depict the character
- Character traits and actions are not represented creatively. They seem thrown together and not thought out
- Extremely limited connections to major themes in the story
- Not prepared to explain or answer questions about your body biography during your presentation