Essential Questions

* How does speaking out effectively create empowerment?
* What can people accomplish when they speak out?
* What prevents one from speaking out?

Lesson Objective: Explore the importance of communication and how it (or lack of it) plays a role in character. Review symbolism.

CC Standards: CC Standards: RL.9-10.1, RL.9-10.2, Rl.9-10.3, RL.9-10.5, SL.9-10.1.a, SL.9-10.3, SL.9-10.4

Session 2: Student Edition

1. Journal: How is communication essential for life: think not only about humans, but 8th graders as well (JK) and animals.
2. Re-Read Letters on the fringe: Answer these questions
   1. What is the purpose of this letter?
   2. Who is the letter written to?
   3. What is the message of this letter
      1. Find some of the author’s key points that support her message?
   4. How is this author speaking out? How will this letter change her life? Or will it?
   5. How does this letter relate to Melinda?
3. Read closely 50-51 “Closet Space”: Answer these questions
   1. Why does she choose this place of isolation?
   2. Why does she cover the mirror?
4. Answer: How do we see alienation of Melinda in this section
   1. How is she alienated by others: parents, teachers, teens, friends
   2. How does she alienate herself
   3. How is this alienation affecting her: positive, negative
   4. Why is she alone?
   5. How is this alienation related to her lack of speaking
      1. Why is talking hard for her?
      2. What is holding her back from speaking?
      3. Why does she continually bite her lips? What does that symbolize?
5. Consider the verbs she chooses to conjugate: what do they communicate about Melinda?
6. Symbolism: review symbolism
   1. Read closely 62-64: Wishbone
   2. What does the project symbolize about Melinda?
   3. Why is it so telling about her
   4. What does it tell about her?
7. Self/Expression and Communication
   1. How is communication important for the mental health of humans
   2. In what ways is Melinda unable to communication
      1. Find textual evidence
   3. In what ways is she able to communication
      1. Text evidence
8. While Melinda is very sparse with her spoken word, what actions does she do that speak for her?
   1. Biting the apple
   2. Playing in the snow
   3. Cry at gift
   4. Making foul shots
9. Discuss what these actions say to others or just to we readers.

Characterization

1. Partners: come up with character traits considered positive and negative
   1. Which of these are common for a protagonist?
   2. Which are common for an antagonist?
   3. What traits make most people like or dislike a character.
   4. How do the following characters fit into this list of “good & bad” character traits?
      1. Melinda, Freeman, David, Mr. Neck, Ivy, Heather, any teachers

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