

Dulaney High School  
GT English 9  
Summer Reading 2021

All students enrolled in GT English 9th are assigned to read **TWO** novels.  
Novel 1: Choice between *Americanized* and *Speak*  
Novel 2: *Long Way Down*

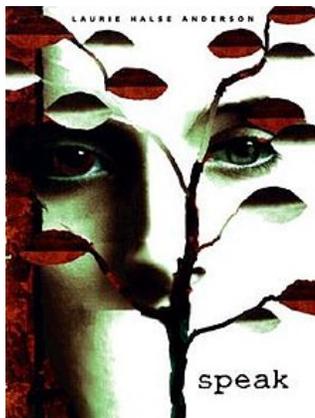


***Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card* by Sara Saedi (nonfiction)**

“At thirteen, bright-eyed, straight-A student Sara Saedi uncovered a terrible family secret: she was breaking the law simply by living in the United States. Only two years old when her parents fled Iran, she didn't learn of her undocumented status until her older sister wanted to apply for an after-school job, but couldn't because she didn't have a Social Security number.

Fear of deportation kept Sara up at night, but it didn't keep her from being a teenager. She desperately wanted a green card, along with clear skin, her own car, and a boyfriend.”  
(from [Amazon](#))

**OR**



***Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson (fiction)**

“Freshman year at Merryweather High is not going well for Melinda Sordino. She busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops, and now her friends—and even strangers—all hate her. So she stops trying, stops talking. She retreats into her head, and all the lies and hypocrisies of high school become magnified, leaving her with no desire to talk to anyone anyway. But it's not so comfortable in her head, either—there's something banging around in there that she doesn't want to think about. She can't just go on like this forever. Eventually, she's going to have to confront the thing she's avoiding, the thing that happened at the party, the thing that nobody but her knows. She's going to have to speak the truth.”  
(from [Amazon](#))

Speak is also available via free PDF at the following link:

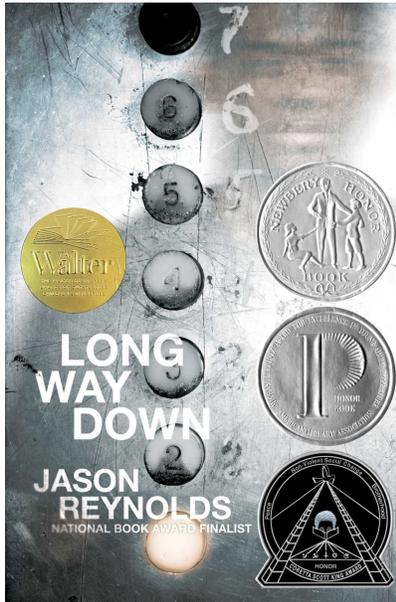
<https://www.husd.org/cms/lib/AZ01001450/Centricity/Domain/3804/Speak.pdf>

**Content Advisories:** Both *Americanized* and *Speak* include minor references to drugs and alcohol and infrequent strong language. *Speak* explores themes related to trauma and sexual assault. Parents and guardians are encouraged to review and discuss these topics with their children. Questions can be directed to Dr. Jason Bowman, English chair at [jbowman2@bcps.org](mailto:jbowman2@bcps.org).

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT LONG WAY DOWN.

In addition to reading either *Speak* or *Americanized*, all students enrolled in 9th grade English are assigned to read ***Long Way Down*** by Jason Reynolds, available at Amazon, libraries, and as a free PDF at the following link :

<https://cpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/cobblearning.net/dist/6/5054/files/2020/03/longwaydownpdf.pdf>.



**About *Long Way Down*:**

A Newbery Honor Book  
A Coretta Scott King Honor Book  
A Printz Honor Book  
A *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize Winner for Young Adult Literature  
Longlisted for the National Book Award for Young People's Literature  
Winner of the Walter Dean Myers Award  
An Edgar Award Winner for Best Young Adult Fiction  
Parents' Choice Gold Award Winner  
An *Entertainment Weekly* Best YA Book of 2017  
A *Vulture* Best YA Book of 2017  
A *Buzzfeed* Best YA Book of 2017

**Synopsis from [Common Sense Media](#):**

"Will has known about The Rules for a long time. No one he knows invented them, they've just always existed: No Crying, No Snitching, Get Revenge. When his big brother

Shawn is killed, Will knows what he has to do -- he has to follow The Rules, right? The 60-second trip down the elevator from his apartment to the killer is among the longest of his life. When his past offers a different perspective on The Rules, Will has to make a tough decision: Will he go through with it?"

*Content Advisory:* This novel explores themes related to loss and gun violence, and includes infrequent strong language. Parents and guardians are encouraged to review and discuss these topics with their children. Questions can be directed to Dr. Jason Bowman, English chair at [jbowman2@bcps.org](mailto:jbowman2@bcps.org).

**Assignment:** As you read, take notes on at least **TEN** quotes from each novel that you personally connect to or consider to be important or profound. You are encouraged to record page numbers whenever possible. Be prepared to turn in your notes and choose one novel to write a personal reflection essay on during the first week(s) of school. For the novel that you do not write your essay on, be prepared to create a book project analyzing the plot, themes, and characters of the novel.