Gabby Dodd

Mrs. Jordan

Language Arts 1 Da Vinci p7

15 December 2012

Speak & Marigolds

I combined the two stories Speak and Marigolds together because they both share a similar theme, symbolic elements, and a lesson at the end of the story. The theme of these two stories is that not communicating in the end will hurt you both emotionally and physically, unless you speak out and learn to overcome your fears. This theme fits both stories very well because both characters in each of the stories go through an event that leaves them feeling haunted. Only until the end does each character speak out, and grow from their mistakes. On Page 286 of Marigolds, Lizabeth described *“The years have put words to the things I knew in that moment, and as I look back upon it, I know that that moment marked the end of innocence. Innocence involves an un-seeing acceptance of things at face value, an ignorance of the area below the surface. In that humiliating moment I looked beyond myself and into the depths of another person. This was the beginning of compassion, and one cannot have both compassion and innocence.”* This quote expresses how Lizabeth was able to express her feelings through communication and shows how she learned from her mistake of ripping out Miss Lottie’s Marigolds and now was able to grow from her experience and become a new person through means of communication. On page 198 of Speak Melinda changes when her communication finally bursts through the prison she had been locked up in when she says *“The tears dissolve the last block of ice in my throat. I feel the frozen stillness melt down through the inside of me, dripping shards of ice that vanish in a puddle of sunlight on the stained floor. Words float up.”* At this point in the book, Melinda has finally let her lack of communication not hurt her anymore like it did when she was raped by Andy Evans, or when she lost the only friend she had at Merry Weather High School. When Melinda’s communication finally floats to the surface and says *“I said no.”* On page 195, it releases her from the prison of secrets, broken heartedness, and brings to Melinda justice. It allows the school to realize that Melinda didn’t speak for a reason, that she really wasn’t some weirdo. These two stories together capture the that theme of communication and turn it into a lesson, a growth of which brings in a moral to the end of each story.

In my sculpture I captured the theme and the symbolic elements of both Speak and Marigolds, and brought the stories together as one. The words around the base of the tree represent both Melinda’s and Lizabeth’s bottled up emotions for the majority of the stories. The words are placed at the bottom because their feelings and thoughts are captured at the bottom of their hearts and just can’t get out. The bright colors of each of the words represent the points in the two stories where the climax reaches its highest, because this is when the emotions become the most longing to escape, yet they just can’t get out. By using the magazine word clippings I was able to relate to the part in Speak on page 99 where Melinda states *“I should probably tell someone, just tell someone. Get it over with. Let it out, blurt it out. I want to be in fifth grade again. Now, that is a deep dark secret, almost a bit as the other one. Fifth grade was easy- old enough to play outside without Mom, young to go off the block. The perfect leash length.”* I also used the words to relate to how Lizabeth felt where she says on page 286 *“I had indeed lost my mind, for all the smoldering emotions of that summer swelled in me and burst- the great need for my mother who was never there, the hopelessness of our poverty and degradation, the bewilderment of being neither child nor woman and yet both at once, the fear unleashed by my father’s tears. And these feelings combined in one great impulse toward destruction.”*  The tree