

## Summer 2018: Pre-IB Eng I Summer Assignment

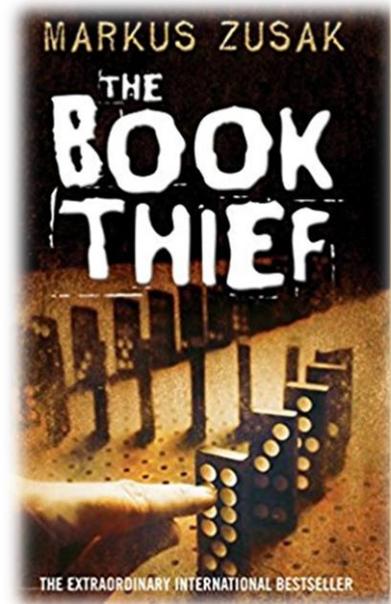
### YOUR ASSIGNMENT

We're so excited to have you in Pre-International Baccalaureate English classes! As a foundation for the units of study in the fall, your summer work will be to read Markus Zusak's *The Book Thief* and complete Parts I & II below (be sure to read the specific directions for each part.)

ALL WORK MUST BE HANDWRITTEN and will be due the FIRST WEEK students return in August. The school year will begin with a brief unit on the book & this project will serve as a necessary foundation for that.

### ABOUT THIS BOOK

Liesel Meminger is only nine years old when she is taken to live with the Hubermanns, a foster family, on Himmel Street in Molching, Germany, in the late 1930s. She arrives with few possessions, but among them is *The Grave Digger's Handbook*, a book that she stole from her brother's burial place. During the years that Liesel lives with the Hubermanns, Hitler becomes more powerful, life on Himmel Street becomes more fearful, and Liesel becomes a full-fledged book thief. She rescues books from Nazi book-burnings and steals from the library of the mayor. Liesel is illiterate when she steals her first book, but Hans Hubermann uses her prized books to teach her to read. This is a story of courage, friendship, love, survival, death, and grief. This is Liesel's life on Himmel Street, told from Death's point of view.



### ABOUT THIS AUTHOR

Markus Zusak has asserted himself as one of today's most innovative and poetic novelists. With the publication of *The Book Thief*, he is now being dubbed a "literary phenomenon" by Australian and U.S. critics. Zusak is the award-winning author of four previous books: *The Underdog*, *Fighting Ruben Wolfe*, *Getting the Girl*, and *I Am the Messenger*, recipient of a Michael L. Printz Honor. He lives in Sydney, Australia. For more information on the author, visit [www.markuszusak.com](http://www.markuszusak.com)

### Part I:

**Directions:** Answer each question with at least a substantial paragraph (5-7 sentences) and include supporting examples and brief quotes from the text. Choose at least three questions to expand into longer responses of at least three paragraphs. Star those three choices.

1) Discuss the *symbolism* of Death as the *omniscient narrator* of the novel. What are Death's feelings for each victim, and how is Death *personified* in this way?

*Extra Guidance:* Describe Death's attempt to resist Liesel. Death remarks, "I'm always finding humans at their best and worst. I see their ugly and their beauty, and I wonder how the same thing can be both" (491). What is ugly and beautiful about Liesel, Rosa and Hans Hubermann, Max Vandenburg, Rudy Steiner, and Mrs. Hermann? Why is Death haunted by humans?

2) What is *ironic* about Liesel's obsession with stealing books? What are some other uses of *irony* in the novel? How does *irony* impact the reader's feelings?

*Extra Guidance:* Consider that there are three distinct types of irony: dramatic irony, situational irony, and verbal irony. Which come into play and in what particular instances? How does this strategy on the part of the writer make you feel?

**3) What does the act of book thievery teach Liesel about life and death, and how do these events reveal Liesel as a dynamic character?**

*Extra Guidance:* *The Grave Digger's Handbook* is the first book Liesel steals. Why did she take the book? What is significant about the titles of the books she steals? Discuss why she hides *The Grave Digger's Handbook* under her mattress. Describe Hans Hubermann's reaction when he discovers the book. Explain Rudy's reaction when he discovers that Liesel is a book thief. How does stealing books from the mayor's house lead to a friendship with the mayor's wife? Explain how Liesel's own attempt to write a book saves her life.

**4) Liesel believes that Hans Hubermann's eyes show kindness, and from the beginning she feels closer to him than to Rosa Hubermann. Discuss the characterization of these major and minor characters.**

*Extra Guidance:* How does Hans gain Liesel's love and trust? Debate whether Liesel is a substitute for Hans's children, who have strayed from the family. Why is it so difficult for Rosa to demonstrate the same warmth toward Liesel? Discuss how Liesel's relationship with Rosa changes by the end of the novel.

**5) What ideas support abandonment as a central theme in the novel?**

*Extra Guidance:* The reader knows that Liesel feels abandoned by her mother and by the death of her brother. How does she equate love with abandonment? At what point does she understand why she was abandoned by her mother? Who else abandons Liesel in the novel? Debate whether she was abandoned by circumstance or by the heart.

**6) What ideas support guilt as another recurring theme or motif in the novel?**

*Extra Guidance:* Hans Hubermann's life was spared in France during World War I, and Erik Vandenburg's life was taken. Explain why Hans feels guilty about Erik's death. Guilt is a powerful emotion that may cause a person to become unhappy and despondent. Discuss how Hans channels his guilt into helping others. Explain Max Vandenburg's thought, "Living was living. The price was guilt and shame" (208). Why does he feel guilt and shame?

**7) What is important about the character interactions of Liesel and Max Vandenburg?**

*Extra Guidance:* Compare and contrast the lives of these two characters. How does Max's life give Liesel purpose? At what point do Liesel and Max become friends? Max gives Liesel a story called "The Standover Man" for her birthday. What is the significance of this story?

**8) How is the novel a bildungsroman or coming of age story?**

*Extra Guidance:* Death says that Liesel was a girl "with a mountain to climb" (86). What is her (metaphoric) mountain? Who are her climbing partners? What is her greatest obstacle? At what point does she reach the summit of her mountain? Describe her descent. What does she discover at the foot of her mountain?

**9) What ideas and characters support courage as a recurring theme or motif in the novel?**

*Extra Guidance:* Hans Junior, a Nazi soldier, calls his dad a coward because he doesn't belong to the Nazi Party. He feels that you are either for Hitler or against him. How does it take courage to oppose Hitler? There isn't one coward in the Hubermann household. Discuss how they demonstrate courage throughout the novel.

**10) How might Hans Junior qualify as a *foil character* compared to Liesel?**

*Extra Guidance:* Compare and contrast Hans Jr. and Liesel. What do they have in common and how are they different? How do the differences connect with themes and motifs already identified?

**11) How does the *minor or supporting character* Rudy help develop the *theme* of friendship, and how does he contribute to Liesel’s *character development*?**

*Extra Guidance:* Describe Liesel’s friendship with Rudy. How does their friendship change and grow throughout the novel? Death says that Rudy doesn’t offer his friendship “for free” (51). What does Rudy want from Liesel? Consider Death’s statement, “The only thing worse than a boy who hates you [is] a boy who loves you” (52). Why is it difficult for Liesel to love Rudy? Discuss why Liesel tells Mr. Steiner that she kissed Rudy’s dead body.

**12) How does Zusak use the literary device of *foreshadowing* to pull the reader into the story?**

*Extra Guidance:* Foreshadowing is not always apparent until after reading. In retrospect, what were some of the early hints or clues about some of the major events in the book?

**13) What is the *author’s message* in the novel’s *resolution*?**

*Extra Guidance:* Liesel Meminger lived to be an old woman. Death says that he would like to tell the book thief about beauty and brutality, but those are things that she had lived. How does her life represent beauty in the wake of brutality? What is the author trying to instill in the reader?

**14) How does *author’s style* impact the message you identified for #13? Include at least three short passages as examples/support.**

*Extra Guidance:* Discuss how Zusak’s poetic writing style enhances the beauty of Liesel’s story, including use of figurative language (metaphor, simile, personification, etc.) and sensory imagery. Where in the novel are you particularly moved, and how does the author achieve this reaction from you?

**15) Evaluate the novel in terms of its impact on you. What did you enjoy most and least?**

*Extra Guidance:* Consider particular characters and events as well as any of the stylistic devices mentioned above. Also, how much did your level of historical background knowledge impact your reading? How much history did you learn through this historical fiction?

***Part II:***

***Directions:*** Create an original hand-drawn book cover that represents the themes and author’s purpose of the book. This new cover should not look like one that already exists.

It should include:

- \_\_\_\_\_ color
- \_\_\_\_\_ images that symbolize important ideas in the novel
- \_\_\_\_\_ the author’s name
- \_\_\_\_\_ the title of the book

You should also include your name prominently on this creative piece and use it as the cover of the project you submit to your English teacher in August.

This will be scored using the rubric below:

**Originality:** 2 point (2-Inventive, 1-Similar to a cover that’s already been done for this book, 0-replica of another)

**Color:** 1 point (Uses color for overall effect.)

**Imagery/Symbols:** 2 points (2-Offers several images/symbols consistent with book, 1-Limited use, 0-None)

**Title and Author:** 2 points (2-Mentions both clearly, 1-Leaves one off, 0-Leaves both off.)

**Your Name:** 1 point (1-Lists student’s name clearly and legibly, 0-Leaves name off or name is illegible.)

**Overall Appeal/Neatness:** 2 points (2-Visually effective, 1-Somewhat appealing, 0-Messy)

**Total possible points:** 10

Cut out & fold to use as a bookmark as you read the novel!

<p><b><i>The Book Thief</i></b> by Markus Zusak</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Major Characters</b></p> <p><b>Death</b> - The <i>narrator</i> of the story. Death is initially sarcastic, with a darkly wry sense of humor, but as the novel progresses and World War II accelerates, Death expresses weariness and remorse about having to collect so many souls.</p> <p><b>Liesel Meminger</b> - The <i>protagonist</i> of the story. Liesel changes from an angry, distrusting character to one who deeply loves her family and friends.</p> <p><b>Hans Hubermann</b> - Liesel's stepfather</p> <p><b>Rosa Hubermann</b> - Liesel's stepmother</p> <p><b>Max Vandenburg</b> - The Hubermann's secret lodger</p> <p><b>Rudy Steiner</b> - Liesel's best friend. With his blond hair, blue eyes, and athletic and intellectual talents, Rudy is the physical embodiment of the perfect Aryan specimen.</p> <p><b>Alex Steiner</b> - Rudy's father</p> <p><b>Ilsa Hermann</b> - The mayor's wife</p> <p><b>Frau Holtzapfel</b> - The Hubermanns' neighbor</p> <p><b>Michael Holtzapfel</b> - Frau Holtzapfel's son</p> <p><b>Frau Diller</b> - Owner of the candy store</p> <p><b>Hans Hubermann, Junior</b> - Rosa's and Hans's son</p> <p><b>Trudy Hubermann</b> - Rosa and Hans's daughter</p> <p><b>Tommy Müller</b> - Liesel and Rudy's classmate</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Setting</b></p> <p><b>Time:</b> Primarily World War II, January 1939-October 1943.</p> <p><b>Place:</b> Primarily the fictional German town of Molching, a suburb of Munich</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Literary Techniques</b></p> <p><b>Author's Purpose:</b> the author's reason for or intent in writing.</p> <p><b>Author's Style:</b> the author's word choice, sentence structure, figurative language, and sentence arrangement all work together to establish mood, images, and meaning in the text.</p> <p><b>Characterization:</b> process of revealing the personality of a character in a story (<i>dynamic</i> – character that changes as a result of the story's events, <i>static</i> – character that does not incur a change.)</p> <p><b>Conflict:</b> Struggle or clash between opposing characters or opposing forces (<i>internal</i> – within a character, <i>external</i> – outside a character.)</p> <p><b>Foil characters:</b> a character who contrasts with another character—usually the protagonist—to highlight particular qualities of the other character.</p> <p><b>Foreshadowing:</b> use of clues to hint at events that will occur later in a plot.</p> <p><b>Irony:</b> contrast or discrepancy between expectation and reality (three types: <i>verbal</i>, <i>situational</i>, <i>dramatic</i>.)</p> <p><b>Motif:</b> a <u>repeating</u> thematic or symbolic element in a literary work</p> <p><b>Personification:</b> kind of metaphor in which a nonhuman thing or quality is talked about as if it were human.</p> <p><b>Point of View:</b> vantage point from which a writer tells a story.</p> <p><b>First person</b> - Narrator in story is "I" and view is restricted to that person.</p> <p><b>3rd person - Omniscient</b> - Narrator has unrestricted view of events.</p> <p><b>3rd person - Limited</b> - Narrator's view is restricted to one or just a few characters.</p> <p><b>Resolution:</b> events following the climax of the play; also known as the falling action (not always satisfying or complete.)</p> <p><b>Symbolism:</b> person place, thing or event that stands for itself and for something beyond itself as well.</p> <p><b>Theme:</b> an overarching message or meaning within a literary work (what the author is attempting to convey about a particular topic through the events &amp; characters.)</p>
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