

June 2017

Summer Reading for Grade 8:

The incoming 8th grade will read The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak .

Discussion questions to be submitted via Google Classroom **before the first/1st** day of school. Answers are to be in **complete sentences**. This book will be analyzed and studied in literature class in August.

DISCUSSION GUIDE:

Prologue:

1. What are your first impressions of Death, the narrator? Why?
2. What special significance do colors have for Death?

Part 1:

1. How does Liesel lose her brother Werner?
2. What is the first book Liesel steals and what does it signify for her?

Part 2:

1. How did the Germans celebrate 20th April, 1940 – Hitler’s Birthday?
2. When and how did Liesel steal her second book?

Part 3:

1. At first, why is Liesel so afraid of going to the Mayor’s house for the laundry?
2. What wonderful discovery awaits Liesel at the Mayor’s house?

Part 4:

1. How had Hans Hubermann survived World War I?
2. Discuss the secret Liesel is asked to keep and its significance.

Part 5:

1. How does Liesel keep Max going?
2. What drives Liesel and Rudy to stealing food?

Part 6:

1. What was the significance of the snowman in the basement?
2. Why does the Mayor’s wife, Ilsa, keep her library window open?

Part 7:

1. Why is the painting business booming for Max?
2. How does Liesel keep the people hiding in the basement entertained and calm?

Part 8:

1. How are Alex and Hans punished for their ‘rebellious’ attitudes against the Nazi party?

Part 9:

1. Why was Liesel surprised to discover the Library belonged to Ilsa and not her husband?
2. Why was Hans able to leave the war and go home early?

Part 10:

1. What does Ilsa bring to Liesel’s door?
2. Describe the bombing on Himmel Street. Why does Liesel survive?

Epilogue:

1. What does Death tell us became of Liesel?
2. Discuss the irony of Max returning alive and being reunited with Liesel.