

## Book Thief Summer Assignment 2017

### **Suggestions for making your reading meaningful:**

**Practice annotating your text.** You will need a highlighter and a pen/pencil, or post-it notes (if you can't write in your book). **Merely highlighting doesn't act as annotation.** When you annotate your text, you are actively engaging with the text by jotting down details relating to specific ideas. In this case, you will be looking for the **themes/motifs** of the novel and answers to the questions below. *You will turn in your book on the second day of school, August 10<sup>th</sup>, for a grade ☺!* Please plan on having at least 30 annotations. Remember, the more you have, the stronger your essay will be and the better prepared you will be for our in class activities.

- What is the symbolism of Death as the omniscient narrator of the novel? Did you find Death as the narrator effective? Why or why not?
- Why is Liesel obsessed with stealing books? What is ironic about Liesel's obsession with stealing books? Discuss other uses of irony in the novel.
- *The Grave Digger's Handbook* is the first book Liesel steals. What is significant about the titles of the books she steals? (Other titles include *The Whistler*, *The Shoulder Shrug*, *The Dream Carrier*, and *The Complete Duden Dictionary and Thesaurus*).
- Abandonment and guilt are two of the book's central themes. Can you discuss examples of how these themes play out?
- Liesel lives to be an old woman. On the last page of the book (p.550), Death says that he would like to tell the book thief "about beauty and brutality. But what could I tell her about those things that she didn't already know?" How does her life represent beauty in the wake of brutality?
- How does Zusak use the literary device of foreshadowing to pull the reader into the story?

**Themes/Motifs:** propaganda and the power of words, human spirit vs. dehumanization, conforming to social norms, cowardice, survivor's guilt, friendship, colors, etc. REFER TO SHEET FOR EXPLANATION