Book Thief Summer Assignment

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. **In order to receive the full credit you must IDENTIFY** the element and explain the **SO WHAT**.

You will turn in your book on the second day of school 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 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