

English 10 and English 10 Honors

Summer Reading Assignments

No sources, other than the sources listed on this assignment handout, may be consulted for this assignment.

1. **Read** *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak. Complete the annotation assignment below.
2. **Be prepared** to participate in discussions and write an in-class essay on the summer reading during the first week of school. Annotated books are due on the first day of class.

Questions?

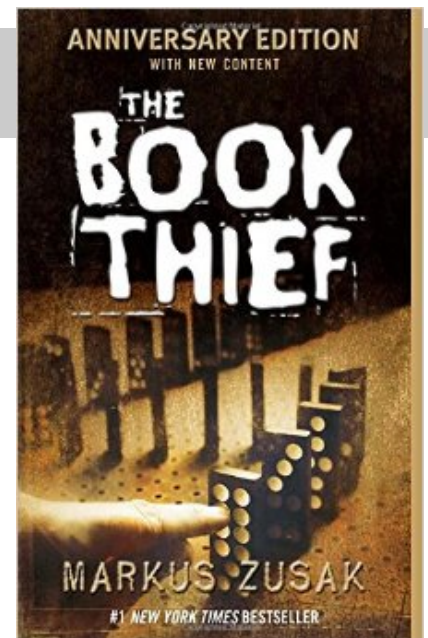
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The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still. But he has a story to tell – the story of *The Book Thief*.

Death introduces us to Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement. Death watches Liesel as she grows, learns who she is, and as the growing storm of war draws closer and closer to her small German town.

In superbly crafted writing that burns with intensity, award-winning author Markus Zusak, author of *I Am the Messenger*, has given us one of the most enduring stories of our time.



Reading Assignment

As you read the novel, **annotate** for the theme topics listed below. In addition to the theme topics, annotate your observations of writing style: pay close attention to the **narrator/point of view**, **setting**, and **symbols**. Annotations will be assessed the first day of class, and a literary analysis essay will follow.

Theme Topics for Annotations

- Death and those death leaves behind
- The power of words and language
- Kindness and cruelty
- Appearance and identity
- Law and law-breaking
- War
- Beauty and ugliness