

Brennan High School Summer Reading English I Pre-AP 2018-19

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Required Text:

***The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak**

It is highly recommended that you buy your own copy of this book for annotation and reference purposes. We will be using the book for the first few weeks of school for projects and assignments.

Dear Future Bears:

The English department would like to welcome you to the Pre-AP English program. We look forward to working together to enhance your knowledge of literature and the written word. If you have any questions regarding the program or the summer reading component, please don't hesitate to contact us at the above email addresses.

Required Assignment:

***The Book Thief*– You will read and analyze this text. Refer to the discussion questions attached to help facilitate your understanding. You will find it useful to thoughtfully respond to each of the questions in writing with page numbers of specific quotes to support your thinking as we fully expect that you will be prepared to discuss the book when you arrive on the first week of school. Any notes you make should be thorough and insightful and not merely a summary. Expect a variety of assignments and a written component to be completed in the first few weeks of school.**

Suggested Assignment: watch TedTalk “The Failurist: Markus Zusak”

- 1. What do you think drives Liesel's hunger to read? How is that connected to the book, *The Gravedigger's Handbook*, which serves as a kind of guide for her?**
- 2. How does Liesel's new "Papa," Hans, encourage her to read? What role does his unusual "dictionary" play in Liesel's quest to read?**
- 3. Even after Liesel learns how to read, her new housemate Max tells her she has much to learn about really observing the things around her. What's the difference between reading and observing (or understanding)?**
- 4. Why was Death, an omniscient narrator, chosen as a central figure in this story?**
- 5. Why does Death find Liesel so exceptional?**
- 6. Why do Hans and Liesel agree to hide Max in their basement? How does that act of courage affect them and Liesel? Think critically about this one? There is an obvious surface level response, but we are looking for original insight.**
- 7. What is ironic about Liesel's obsession with stealing books?**
- 8. How does Liesel's own attempt to write a book function as an attempt at endurance?**
- 9. Death says that Liesel was a girl "with a mountain to climb" (p. 86). What is her mountain? Who are her climbing partners? At what point does she reach the summit of her mountain? Describe her descent. What does she discover at the foot of the mountain?**
- 10. Make an effort to also watch the film adaptation of *The Book Thief*. Film adaptations of books must often by necessity condense or change specific plot points or characters. What are the key differences between the movie and the book? Do you agree with the changes that were made?**