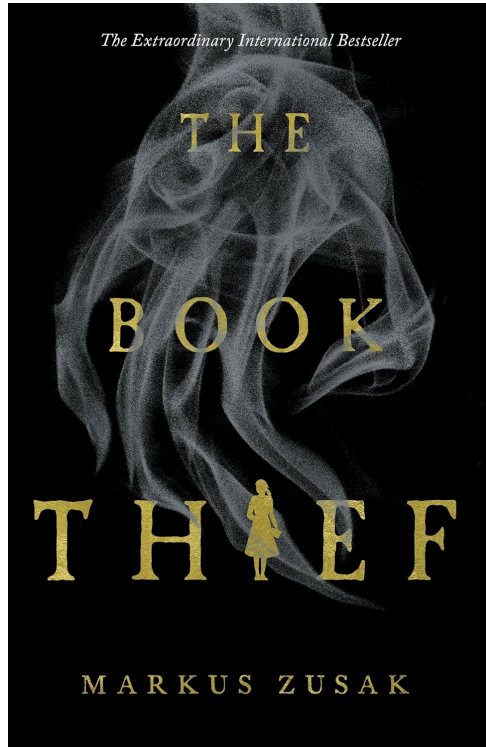


The Book Thief



Note: Obtain your own copy of the book and bring it to class on the first day of school.

Author: Markus Zusak
Published: 2005

Annotate & Consider These Topics:

- Identity & Belonging: How do characters define themselves in a world shaped by war?
- Survival vs. Morality — Identify moments when characters must choose between safety and doing what is right. What do these choices reveal about their values?
- The Costs of War — Track the losses, sacrifices, and emotional toll experienced by characters throughout the novel.

While Reading . . .

- **Keep a reading journal as you read.** After each significant reading session, record the date, time, and pages read; then, write about key plot developments, character evolution, and emerging abstract ideas related to the power of words, loss, or moral choice. Your journal must contain a minimum of four detailed entries. This journal may be typed or handwritten and is due on the first day of school.
- **Compose a 350-word reflection exploring your intellectual and emotional response to the novel.** This informal writing may use first person and should analyze specific scenes that impacted you and examine how the novel shaped or challenged your understanding of life in Nazi Germany. Include specific textual evidence and consider both compelling elements and aspects you found challenging or thought-provoking. You may also reflect on the narrator's role and how this stylistic choice influences your experience of the story. Your reflection should demonstrate honors-level critical thinking while maintaining an authentic personal voice.
- **Research a current news article (published within the last six months) from a reputable source that connects to one of the novel's central themes: the impact of war on civilians, loss and displacement, the power of words, or human resilience.** Write a 150-word analysis that connects the real-world situation to specific events in the novel and examines how the article enhances your understanding of the narrative. Select a fact-based news report rather than an opinion piece. Include a Works Cited page with the article's publication information and a citation for the novel.