**The Book Thief by Markus Zusak**

The summer reading assignment is to be typed and submitted the first day of school.

Students shall submit typed answers to the following six questions. Students are to write the question and then follow with their response for each submission. Each response should be written in complete sentences, should be thoughtful and reflective in nature, and must answer every aspect of the question.

Students are encouraged to make annotations throughout the text. To annotate a text is to mark key passages in the book that make one think, question, or strongly react. As students read, they should underline/highlight parts of the text to which they are responding and write notes in the margin. Annotations are meant to slow down one’s reading but not hinder it. If students are unable to leave permanent marks in their books they can use Post-It notes to facilitate their comprehension and analysis of the text. It is important that students absorb this book and THINK about what is being read.

**Beauty and Brutality of Life and Language**

1. Death states, "I'm always finding humans at their best and worst. I see their ugly and their beauty, and I wonder how the same thing can be both"(491). What is ugly and beautiful about Liesel, Rosa, Hans, Max, and Rudy? How does each of their lives represent beauty in the wake of brutality?
2. Death is the omniscient narrator of the novel and is personified into an active character with human traits and emotions. What are Death's feelings for the victims of war? Write at least five (5) quotes from the novel that best show Death's humanity. Please include page numbers. (Remember a quote in this context does not mean it is something a character said. Words taken directly from the text are quotes and should be put in quotation marks followed by the page number in parenthesis.)
3. Zusak's writing is often both beautiful and ugly at the same time. Write 5 quotes from the novel that you feel best exemplify the beauty and brutality of life and language and explain how each does this. Please include the page number for each quote.

**The Role of Reading and Books in Liesel's Life**

1. Hans, Max, and the mayor's wife were each instrumental in helping Liesel to read and write books. How does each contribute to Liesel's literary life?
2. Keep a chart of the titles of the books Liesel steals and acquires during her life. What is significant about each title, and how does each book help Liesel and/or those she loves?

**The Consequences of Racial Intolerance**

1. Death says, "Somewhere, far down, there was an itch in [Alex Steiner’s] heart, but he made it a point not to scratch it. He was afraid of what might come leaking out"(60). Many other characters, however, let their courage to oppose Hitler and anti-Semitism leak out in their actions and thoughts. How do Liesel, Rudy, Hans, Rosa, and Max each demonstrate their courage to scratch the itches in their hearts?