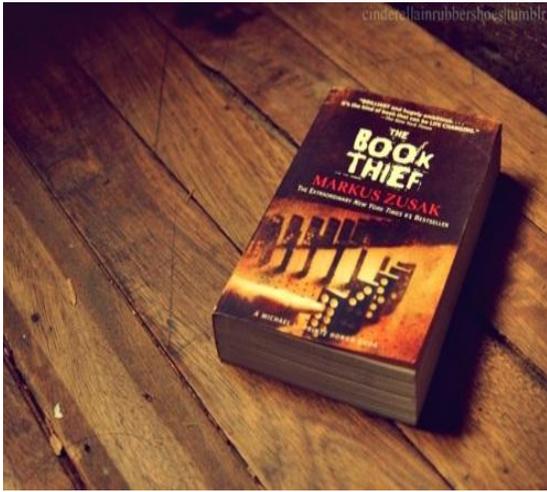


Summer Reading Assignment

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

PRE-AP ENGLISH I 2018-2019

Putnam City North High School



Welcome to Pre-AP English I. I am so excited to have you join me on a journey that will take you many places through the pages of books. The journey begins this summer, when you will read *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak and complete an assignment that you will bring with you on the first day of school.

The Book Thief is a gripping tale told from a unique and disquieting point of view:

“It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still. Liesel Meminger is 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. The extraordinary #1 *New York Times* bestseller that is now a major motion picture, Markus Zusak’s unforgettable story is about the ability of books to feed the soul.”

From the Hardcover edition.

What to do this summer:

- Read *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak.
- As you read, keep a **Response Journal**. A response journal is a notebook to explore your thoughts and feelings about what you are reading. It will also allow me to see how you think when you read and how you approach the story. Keep your Response Journal in a spiral notebook or a composition book. As you read, stop approximately every 40-50 pages and write a response to those pages in your Response Journal. See below for suggestions about what to write.
- Before each response, write the date and the range of page numbers that you are responding to.
- Each response should be approximately 1 handwritten page (**not typed**).
- Because each response will be an immediate response to the text, it will be considered a rough draft and will not be graded for grammar or spelling. I am more concerned with thoughtful, text-specific responses *that show you have both read the text and connected with it in some way*.

- There should be a **minimum** of 10 responses to the reading **AND** a FINAL response.
- The FINAL response is a reflection on the book as a whole and its effect on you -- not a “thumbs-up” or “thumbs-down.”

What can you write about in your journal?

Always write about anything you feel strongly about. **Although your responses should reveal your thoughts and feelings about the text, provide specific textual evidence to explain how or**

why you have been affected by the text. Your responses must show evidence of closing reading Here are some possible prompts to think about or finish, *but I encourage you to create your own original responses:*

- *This character (who) has changed (how)... because...*
- *This phrase or quote is interesting because....*
- *I wonder what it means when....*
- *I don't understand why....*
- *This part is very believable (or unbelievable) because...*
- *This section makes me question or think about...*
- *This character reminds me of another character in (book or movie) because...*
- *I love the way...*
- *I noticed...*
- *I wish...*
- *It seems like...*
- *I agree (or disagree) with ___ because ___*
- *I wonder why...*
- *I think the author's message is . . .*

Tips for Reading:

Create a reading schedule for yourself by dividing the number of pages in the book by the number of days you intend to spend reading the novel, and then read that number of pages each day. It may help to divide the book into 50-page chunks since you should write in your Response Journal every 40-50 pages.

How I Will Grade Your Response Journal:

Your Response Journal will be a project grade. Grades in this category represent 25% of your grade for the first semester, so it is important that you complete this assignment. I will use the following rubric to grade it:

Response Journal Rubric			
Task	Example/Explanation	Points Possible	Points Earned
Identify date and pages read	July 5, 2018 Pages 1-50	10	
10 Responses	There are 10 different responses, each responding to approximately 50 pages in the text.	20	
Final Response	The final response explains how the entire book has affected you. It is not a summary or a review of the book (not a “thumbs up” or “thumbs down”).	10	

Responses are at least 1 handwritten page in length.	Each response is 1 handwritten page, for a total of 11 handwritten pages (10 responses throughout the book and 1 final response)	20	
Handwritten, original responses are insightful, thoughtful, and show close reading of the text.	Your responses should be your own work. Do not consult outside sources or work with other students. Include specific textual references to show me you have closely read, but do not summarize the pages. Vague, superficial, or incomplete responses will not receive full credit.	40	
TOTAL POINTS	You will receive points based upon the quantity and quality of each required task. Maximum points will be awarded if there are no significant errors and your reasoning is sound and insightful.	100	

Cheating/Plagiarism:

Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in a zero on the assignment.

Plagiarism is the taking of someone else's work, whether you know them or not, and trying to pass it off as your own. It is also plagiarism to use someone else's *ideas*, even if you are not using their exact words. Avoid plagiarism by reading the book without consulting other sources or discussing your responses with other students. Since the responses are personal reflections, there is no need to consult the internet or other students.

Google Classroom:

I have created a classroom in Google Classroom just for Pre-AP English I summer reading. **You are not required to join, but it is a great place to ask questions of me or the group.** If you attended a Putnam City middle school, go to <https://classroom.google.com> and use your Putnam City email and password to sign in (or sign up). Use the following class code to join Pre-AP Summer Reading 2018: **evprqw4**. Sign up as soon as possible; if you wait, the class code may be reset and you will need to email me to obtain the new class code. If you did not attend a Putnam City middle school, please email me and I will request that you be added to the group.

Check Google Classroom for my posts. You may post comments and questions on the site; public posts will be seen by all members of the class and may help others, since you may have a question that others want answered as well. You may also privately post a question for me.

What to Bring to School on the First Day:

Handwritten Response Journal (10 responses **plus** one Final Response to the entire novel), notebook paper, and a pen or pencil.

Be prepared to write an essay and/or to take a test over *The Book Thief* within the first few weeks of school.

If you have any questions, please contact me through Google Classroom, or you may email me at kromine@putnamcityschools.org.

On the back of this page is a sample response journal for pages 3-45. **Although this sample response is typed, yours must be handwritten. Please use your best handwriting!** Also, because I didn't want to provide any spoilers, it does not contain as many details about the characters and plot as yours should have. Your response journal should refer to specific details in the story to support your response.

The Book Thief Response Journal - pages 3-45

When I started the book, I couldn't figure out who the narrator was. The first few pages were confusing to me, but I reread them after I had read several more pages and it made more sense, especially after I figured out who the narrator was. Wow! That was unexpected, but after rereading the first page, I wonder why I didn't figure it out at the beginning.

I like the tone of the novel so far, but sometimes I think the narrator is mocking all humans, including me, because of the things we value. He's a little arrogant about what he knows, but he is telling this story so he already knows how it ends. I'm thinking this is one way that the author is drawing me into the story through the narrator. It's working!

After I got to page 15, I realized pages 3-15 were like an introduction to provide context for the story, so I went back and reread those pages. I sometimes wonder why an author will tell you what is going to happen before it's going to happen like the narrator does in these pages. For me, I start anticipating getting to those parts of the story, because I know the story will fill in the details to explain *why* certain things happen. Maybe that's what the author intends.

Sometimes it's annoying when the narrator tells me exactly what something means, like on page 38 when he puts in bold what the book's meaning is. Can I trust the narrator to tell me what the book really means, or should I question it? It's odd how the narrator often interrupts the story to put in a headline or comment like the one on this page. At times I like it because it adds to the story, but other times I think it is really intrusive. Maybe it's like comic relief (even though it's not particularly funny), so he interrupts really serious scenes with his commentary so the mood won't be so depressing. I think that's what he is doing here.

Occasionally, when I really get into the story I forget the narrator is there, but then he jumps in to remind me he's never far away. After describing Frau Holtzapfel and her sons on page 44, he says about the sons, "Both were in the army and both will make cameo appearances by the time we're finished here, I assure you." It's like the narrator is another character in almost every scene, even though he claims to be a detached observer.