

**Thomas Hart Academy**  
**Honors English I Summer Reading 2023**

***Mrs. Debra Beckham***

***The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who can not read them.***

**- - *Mark Twain***

Although we hope that 8th grade ELA students will read for pleasure throughout the summer, they will be responsible for reading *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak, and answer the questions below. **Students should bring their assignments to class on the first day of school on Thursday, August 3, 2023.**

**Directions for Summer Reading 2023 *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak**

**Type responses to the following questions in a separate document.** Answer questions thoroughly and in complete sentences. Cite textual evidence when necessary. Your document should be in MLA format and printed. (You may number your answers.)

**8th Grade Novel Questions for *The Book Thief* by Markus**

1. What is the significant of Death as the omniscient narrator of the novel?
2. What are Death's feelings for each victim?
3. Why is Death haunted by humans?
4. What is ironic about Liesel's obsession about stealing books?
5. How does Hans gain Liesel's love and trust?
6. Abandonment is a central theme in the novel. The reader knows that Liesel feels abandoned by her mother and by the death of her brother. How does she equate love with abandonment?
7. Guilt is another recurring theme in the novel. Hans Hubermann's life was spared in France during World War I, and Erik Vandenburg's life was taken. Explain why Hans feels guilty about Erik's death.
8. Compare and contrast the lives of Liesel and Max Vandenburg. How does Max's life give Liesel purpose?
9. How does Zusak use the literary device of foreshadowing to pull the reader into the story?
10. Liesel Meminger lived to be an old woman. Death says that he would like to tell the book thief about beauty and brutality, but those are things that she had lived. How does her life represent beauty in the wake of brutality?