



2024 Summer Reading Assignment for **THE BOOK THIEF** by Markus Zusak

Dear NDA Students who are heading into **Grades 10-12**:

The English Department is requiring you to read the novel, *THE BOOK THIEF*, over the summer and prepare one of the following options for presentation during the first days of school in the fall. Your English teacher may also decide to quiz you over the book, so make sure you read it thoughtfully!

Your teachers believe that beginning the year with a shared literary experience will set a good tone for the rest of the year as the novel deals with themes of the power of words, human kindness and cruelty, love, and mortality.

*It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will be busier still. By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed when she picks up a single object, partially hidden in the snow. It is *The Gravedigger's Handbook*, left behind there by accident, and it is her first act of book thievery. So begins a love affair with books and words, as Liesel, with the help of her accordion-playing foster father, learns to read. Soon she is stealing books from Nazi book-burnings, the mayor's wife's library, wherever there are books to be found. But these are dangerous times. When Liesel's foster family hides a Jew in their basement, Liesel's world is both opened up, and closed down. (Goodreads.com)*

The book is readily available at our local libraries, *Barnes and Noble*, and *Books a Million*.

Public Speaking and Presentations!

Topic options for the speech include:

- a. “Character in a Bag:” Choose a character from the novel. Place 3-5 items in a bag that you think represent the character in some way. (The bag itself could even represent the character, but it doesn’t count towards a minimum of 3 items.) Use your speech to present your items and explain their significance. Note that your overall speech should still have a thesis statement—an overall point you want to make about your character. The items you include will support this overall point. *You must have physical props to use during this speech.
- b. Multimedia: Choose between 3-5 images, songs, videos, etc. that fit with the themes you see in the novel. Use your speech to present your multimedia selections and explain their significance. NOTE: Do not simply include images of the Holocaust. Your pieces should reflect themes and ideas that are more than superficial. Please see your teacher if you don’t understand what we mean by “theme.” *Each multimedia sample must be able to be shown in class. You are required to check the compatibility of software and files before your presentation date.
- c. Compare/Contrast: Compare and contrast the treatment of the Holocaust in *The Book Thief* with another text that uses the Holocaust as a subject or a backdrop. *A PowerPoint or other visual aid is optional for this project.

If you choose to use a PowerPoint or any multimedia presentation, you may NOT read from the screen as your presentation. Only notes and images should appear on the screen. The content of the speech must be memorized.

This presentation is worth 25 points and will be based on the following:

- 3-5 minute length
- Eye contact with audience, good posture/body language
- Avoidance of interrupters
- Speech has hook, informative body, and conclusion
- Speech transitions smoothly from one sub-point to the next
- Note cards are TURNED IN after speech, bound by a binder clip or rubber band
- General preparedness, professionalism

Here is the grading rubric:

THE BOOK THIEF Oral Presentation Rubric

Name: _____

Period: _____

Introduction (3pts)

- ___ Hook to get audience attention
- ___ Makes point/ has thesis statement (*not* "my speech is about...")

Body (5 pts)

- ___ Includes 3-4 main points
- ___ Includes explanation and support for each point
- ___ Uses transitions effectively

Conclusion (2pts)

- ___ Concludes without saying "I'm done," or "In conclusion..." style ending
- ___ Relates to audience in some way

Speaking Style (5 pts)

- ___ Minimal use of interrupters
- ___ Posture communicates confidence
- ___ Body language (use of classroom space, hand gestures)
- ___ Eye contact
- ___ Speed/ volume of speech

Content: (5 pts)

- ___ Shows knowledge of the books plot and understanding of the books themes
- ___ Responds to the prompt and fulfills requirements of prompt

Other (5 pts)

- ___ Speech is 3-5 minutes in length
- ___ General professionalism
- ___ Note cards are *notes* not full text and are turned in bound with binder clip or rubber band
- ___ Props or visual aids are used effectively.

Total: _____/25 pts