

## English II Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to sophomore English. The year will be spent reading literature written by authors around the world. Your summer reading is by an Australian author with Austrian and German roots. The purpose of the summer reading assignment is to refine reading skills, which are often lost or reduced over the summer months, and to encourage reading for pleasure. Reading closely and analytically requires practice, so completing the summer reading assignment allows you to maintain your level of excellence.

**Assignment #1:** Do some research about the author of *The Book Thief*, Markus Zusak.

- Write down 10 interesting things about him.
- Be sure to include the source(s) you used to find the information for the facts.

This is due the first day of class, August 19, 2021.

**Assignment #2:** Read *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak. This book can be borrowed from the public library or purchased at local bookstores or online. We strongly suggest that you purchase your own copy of the book (ISBN # 978-0375842207) so that you can practice active reading through highlighting, taking notes in the margins, and using sticky notes to mark important passages. You will need to have your book in class for the first few weeks of school. **A summary of the book and active reading instructions are attached to this assignment.**

**Assignment #3:** Using MLA format, write a paragraph about a time when words were powerful to you. This may be typed or handwritten. Please bring a printed copy of the paragraph with you on the first day of class, August 19, 2021.

Please note: The summer assignment is not something you can put off until the last week of the summer, so get started as soon as possible. Taking good notes and marking the book as you go will help you remember what you have read, even if you get your reading completed in June.

Remember, this is the first time I will see your writing as an English student, so complete your work to the **best** of your ability. I want to be able to see your writing style. Please do not have anyone edit your writing.

I look forward to seeing you in class next fall, and I hope you are excited to continue your high school experience as a sophomore! Should you have any questions in the meantime, please use my email to contact me anytime over the summer.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Strauss  
cheryl.strauss@ocssaints.org

*The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak (ISBN# 978-0375842207)

**Summary:** Liesel Meminger is only nine years old when she is taken to live with the Hubermanns, a foster family, on Himmel Street in Molching, Germany, in the late 1930s. She arrives with few possessions, but among them is *The Grave Digger's Handbook*, a book that she stole from her brother's burial place. During the years that Liesel lives with the Hubermanns, Hitler becomes more powerful, life on Himmel Street becomes more fearful, and Liesel becomes a full-fledged book thief. She rescues books from Nazi bookburnings and steals from the library of the mayor. Liesel is illiterate when she steals her first book, but Hans Hubermann uses Liesel's prized books to teach her to read. This is a story of courage, friendship, love, survival, death, and grief. This is Liesel's life on Himmel Street, told from Death's point of view.

- Think about this information while you are reading the book. Be sure to keep in mind how the point of view told by the character Death is affecting the story.

**Active Reading Expectations:** Use the style you prefer for annotations (highlighting, taking notes in the margins, and using sticky notes to mark important passages). While reading, create **several** annotations for each section of the book **when characters are introduced, main events occur, and any strong language where words are important to the actions and reactions of the characters**. A summary sentence at the end of each part will be helpful when discussing the book in class.

Prologue: "Death and Chocolate" (pp.3-15)

Part 1: "Arrival on Himmel Street" (pp.18-80)

Part 2: "A Girl Made of Darkness" (pp.81-122)

Part 3: "The Way Home" (pp. 123-170)

Part 4: "The Accordionist" (pp. 171-238)

Part 5: "The Floating Book" (pp. 239-303)

Part 6: "Death's Diary: 1942" (pp. 305-350)

Part 7: "Champagne and Accordions" (pp. 351-403)

Part 8: "Dominoes and Darkness" (pp. 405-455)

Part 9: "The Next Temptation" (pp. 457-493)

Part 10: "The End of the World" (pp. 497-539)

Epilogue: "Death and Liesel" (pp. 543-550)

Grading:

20 points Facts about Markus Zusak

60 points Annotations

20 points Personal Paragraph- a time when words were important

100 points total