

Oklahoma Christian School
English II Summer Reading 2024-2025
The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Congratulations on finishing your freshman year! 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.

Step 1: Buy a copy of *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak (ISBN# 978-0375842207). Getting this particular version will ensure that your page numbers line up with the information in this document and with classwork that will be done at the beginning of the school year.

Step 2: Read the sections of this document titled Summary and Active Reading Expectations.

Step 3: Annotate while reading the book. Practice active reading through highlighting, taking notes in the margins, and using sticky notes to mark important passages. Include a summary sentence at the end/last page of the prologue, each “part,” and the epilogue (For further explanation, see the section titled “Active Reading Expectations” farther down this document). Your annotations will be graded so take this step seriously. Scant work will not earn a good grade.

Step 4: Complete the assignment page titled “Post-Reading Assignment.” This will be graded as well.

Please note –

- *Be sure your book is marked with your name.
- *This 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, it is important to always complete your work to the best of your ability. We expect an excellent performance. Please plan your time accordingly.
- *This is the first time the teacher will see your writing as an English student; it is important for the teacher to be able to see your writing style. Please do not have anyone edit your writing.
- *You will need to have your book in class for the first few weeks of school.

Have a wonderful summer!

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 book burnings 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 novel is a story of courage, friendship, love, survival, death, and grief. Liesel's life on Himmel Street is told from Death's point of view (While reading, keep in mind how the point of view told by the character Death affects 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, especially marking strong language where words are important to the actions and reactions of the characters.

Write a summary sentence at the end of each part. This is required and 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:

30 points Completed paper reading assignment

70 points total Book annotations

= 100 points possible

MAJOR LITERARY DEVICES (SYMBOLS, FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE, ARCHETYPES, ALLUSIONS, IMAGERY, etc.)-
Choose one device and explain it with at least two examples from the book.:

THEME (A full sentence that conveys a message or insight from the book):

MEMORABLE QUOTE (Something from the text that stood out to you as important or beautiful and WHY):

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF THIS WORK compared to other works you have read (Style):

COMMENTS (Would you recommend it? Did you love it? Hate it? Why?): _____
