

The Book Thief

By Markus Zusak



It is 1939. In Nazi Germany, the country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier - and will become busier still. By her brother's graveside, nine year old Liesel's life is changed forever when she picks up a single object, abandoned in the snow. It is The Gravedigger's Handbook, and this is her first act of book thievery. So begins Liesel's love affair with books and words, and soon she is stealing from Nazi book-burnings, the mayor's wife's library . . . wherever there are books to be found. But these are dangerous times, and when Liesel's foster family hides a Jew in their basement, nothing will ever be the same again.

In 2013 The Book Thief was made into a film starring Geoffrey Rush.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think the author chose Death as the narrator?

2. Death says of Liesel that she was "discovering the power of words". What power do you think words have?

3. What kind of relationship do Liesel and Rudy have?	
4. The bombing of Himmel Street is in many ways the climax of the book, yet is no surprise. Does this affect the impact of reading about it?	t it
5. The Word Shaker is the second time the author has included a book within the bo – why do you think he does this? What effect does it have on the story?	ok
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