

# The Book Thief

## Study Notes



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Key Facts



**FULL TITLE** · *The Book Thief*

**AUTHOR** · Markus Zusak

**TYPE OF WORK** · Novel

**GENRE** · Historical novel; coming-of-age novel; Holocaust novel

**LANGUAGE** · English

**TIME AND PLACE WRITTEN** · Sydney, Australia, 2005

**NARRATOR** · *The Book Thief* is narrated by Death (yes, that Death) the day after the death of the main character, Liesel.

**POINT OF VIEW** · Death is an omniscient narrator who switches between first person and a closed third person point of view, describing all the main characters' thoughts and emotions as well as his own. He mostly sticks to the events during the years of World War Two, though occasionally he flashes forward to relay different characters' fates.

**TONE** · The tone is intimate and conversational, with the narrator at times interrupting himself or interjecting reactions to the narrative. Though his voice employs humour, the overall sense is of sadness.

**TENSE** · Past tense with flashbacks and occasional flash forwards.

**SETTING (TIME)** · Primarily World War Two, January 1939 – October 1943

**SETTING (PLACE)** · Primarily the fictional German town of Molching, a suburb of Munich

**PROTAGONIST** · Liesel Meminger

**MAJOR CONFLICT** · After losing her family in the lead-up to World War II, Liesel must establish her identity as she helps her foster family hide a Jew from the Nazis and deals with the hardships of war-time Germany.





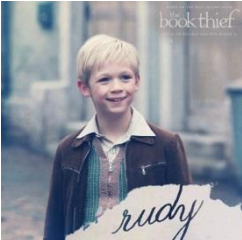





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**RISING ACTION** · Given to foster parents after the death of her brother, Liesel adjusts to life with a new family and friends and begins learning the value of words as Germany moves gradually toward war and her family hides Max, a Jewish man, from Nazi authorities.

**CLIMAX** · Liesel encounters Max being marched to a concentration camp, precipitating a crisis in her in which she questions the value of words.

**FALLING ACTION** · Liesel begins writing her own story and then must learn to move on after all her family and friends are killed in a bomb raid.

## The Characters

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Liesel</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The protagonist (main character)</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hans Hubermann</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Liesel's stepfather</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Rosa Hubermann</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Liesel's step mother</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Max Vandenburg</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jewish man hiding in the basement at the Hubermann's house.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Rudy Steiner</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Liesel's best friend.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Death</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Narrator</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ilisa Herman</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The mayor's wife.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Alex Steiner</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rudy's father</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Führer</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hitler</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Frau Holtzapfel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Hubermann's neighbour.</li> <li>- Seems mean, but then experiences the death of her son.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Michael Holtzapfel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Frau Holtzapfel's son who survives the war.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Robert Holtzapfel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Frau Holtzapfel's son.</li> <li>- Dies in war.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Frau Diller</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Owner of the candy store.</li> <li>- Very patriotic.</li> <li>- Embodies the Hitler ideal of a 'good German'</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hans Hubermann Jr</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rosa and Hans' son.</li> <li>- Very patriotic.</li> <li>- Unquestioning in his faith in Hitler.</li> <li>- Does not get along with Hans.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Trudy Hubermann</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rosa and Han's daughter.</li> <li>- Not present in the novel.</li> <li>- Not close with her parents.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Tommy Müller</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Classmate of Liesel and Rudy.</li> <li>- Physically weak with bad ears.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Arthur Berg</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- First leader of the apple stealing gang.</li> <li>- Tough but fair.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Walter Kugler</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Helps Max escape.</li> <li>- Brave like Max.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Frau Deutscher</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Leader of Rudy's Hitler Youth group.</li> <li>- Takes pleasure in humiliating Rudy.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Viktor Chemmel</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Second leader of the apple stealing group.</li> <li>- Exploits his own power.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Reinhold Zucker</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trades seats with Hans on the bus. Saves his life.</li> </ul>

# Life in Hitler's Germany

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UD0LGY9IMRM> Part 1

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KN0C6EgPv8o> Part 2

This documentary follows Norah Wall's years in Germany from 1934-1938.



After watching the documentary answer the following questions:

1. What were Norah's first impressions of Germany?
2. "Germany is a ship that was broken on the rocks and by gift from God in Hitler we have a captain to steer that ship." Why did Germans love the Fuhrer (Hitler)? What good things did he do for his country?
3. "It was like the Nazis were shaking people into feeling good about what they did." How were the Nazis doing this?
4. A newsreel is shown of Nazis burning books in large piles. Did you or can you make any connections to Liesel's experiences in *The Book Thief*?
5. What did Norah read in the German papers?
6. What did she read about in the British papers?
7. How did Professor Morris react when Norah asked about what Hitler was really doing? What kind of actions did he take and why?
8. What was Professor Morris's story about his experience in a local shop?
9. What were the concentration camps? Who was sent to them?
10. Liesel kept banned books; in fact she stole banned books! What could have been her punishment if someone from the Nazi party found out?
11. Why did ordinary Germans tell the gestapo about their neighbours?
12. What impression does this documentary give you about the time and place in which Liesel lived?

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## The Narrator *The Book Thief*



Re-read the *Death and Chocolate* section of the prologue.

1. What do you notice about the voice of the narrator?
2. What were your impressions at this point about the narration?
3. How did you feel about the voice?
4. At which point (use a quote) does the reader realise that the narrator is Death?
5. How does the voice try to earn the reader's sympathy?
6. How is the reader set up to read the rest of the story?
7. What do you think of the narration so far?

Re-read up the end of the prologue.

8. Has your opinion about the narrator changed at all? Why/Why not?

## Anticipation Guide

State whether you agree or disagree with the following statements and explain why:

Words are powerful weapons. Use them with care.

Agree/ Disagree

Reason:

It is justifiable to steal from someone if you are in need.

Agree/Disagree

Reason:

Sometimes loving someone means leaving them.

Agree/Disagree

Reason:

You should always stand up for what is right, even if it puts you and your loved ones at risk.

Agree/Disagree

Reason:

Books have the power to connect people who otherwise wouldn't have anything in common.

Agree/Disagree

Reason:

Children and Teenagers don't understand pain.

Agree/Disagree

Reason:

Death is ugly and scary.

Agree/Disagree

Reason:



## Chapter Questions

### Part One- The Gravedigger's Handbook



#### Arrival on Himmel Street

1. Why did Liesel start digging into the snow when her brother was buried?
2. What is her mother's hand described like on page 24? What does this description suggest about her mother's character?
3. What are some reasons why Liesel's mother wants to give up her children?
4. Meeting Rosa:

“As far as dispositions go, her's wasn't really enviable, although she'd had a good record with foster kids in the past.”

  - i. Define 'disposition' and 'enviable'
  - ii. What does this quote suggest about Rosa?
5. Death describes the sky as “grey, the colour of Europe”, what does this suggest about Europe?
6. What simile does Zusak use to describe Rosa on page 28? Draw this image.
7. How does Hans get Liesel out of the car? What does this suggest about his character?
8. Imagine you are one of the following characters: Liesel, Hans or Rosa and a reflection about what they see/feel/think about Liesel's arrival on Himmel Street.

#### Growing up Saumensch

1. How is Liesel described by Death early in the chapter?
2. What is Liesel's relationship with her father like?
3. What are some facts we learn about Hans Hubermann?
4. How are Hans's eyes described? What does this suggest about his character?
5. What are some facts about Rosa?

#### The Kiss

1. What are some facts about Rudy Steiner?
2. How is Frau Diller described? What are your initial thoughts about her?
3. Why do you think the Star of David was painted on the doors of some houses? What might this symbolise?

#### The Jesse Owens Incident

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1. Who is Jesse Owens?
2. What are some facts we learn about Alex Steiner?

### **The Heavyweight Champion of the School Yard**

1. What are two events that occur in September- November 1939?
2. Imagine you are Sister Maria write about Liesel reading in class from her point of view. (150-200 word response)
3. Why does Liesel attack Ludwig and Tommy?
4. What does this incident suggest about her character?

## **Part Two- The Shoulder Shrug**



### **The Joy of Cigarettes**

1. What are some events that lead Liesel to start to feel happy again
2. Write down the final sentence from *The Grave Digger's Handbook*.
  - a. How do you think this sentence relates to Liesel and Hans' relationship?

### **The Town Walker**

1. What are Rosa's reasons for making Liesel collect and deliver the laundry to the customers?
2. When Liesel began writing letters to her mother she had a "sense of foreboding" in her that she ignored (p104). What does this suggest?
3. Liesel felt that "Whispering adults hardly inspired confidence." Can you connect with this idea? Explain.

### **Dead Letters**

1. Death writes that Liesel did not receive a gift for her birthday. What is the significance of this as well as Papa being out of tobacco?
2. When Rosa sees Liesel realise her mother is dead "She reached down and leaked a little." (p107) what do you think this means?
3. Write down three quotes about the idea of darkness from this passage.
4. What does the darkness symbolise?

### **Hitler's Birthday 1940**

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1. What are Rosa and Hans frantically trying to find to display?
2. Why is Rosa so worried about not finding it? What does she think will happen?
3. Explain the history between Hans and his son Hans Junior.
4. What do you think eventually happens to Hans Junior?

### 100 Percent Pure German Sweat

1. What do we find out about Tommy Muller in this passage?
2. What word does the man on the podium say that impacts Liesel? Why does it?
3. What happens between Liesel and Ludwig? What does this incident suggest about Liesel?

### The Gates of Thievery

1. What does *The Small Addition* suggest about what Liesel is thinking and feeling?
2. How does Hans react when Liesel says "I hate the Fuhrer."? Why?

### Book of Fire

At the end of this passage complete the 4Cs about Part II of *The Book Thief*.

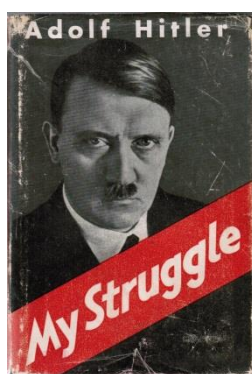
**Connections:** What connections do you draw between your own life or your other learning?

**Challenge:** what ideas, positions or assumptions do you want to *challenge* or *argue* with in the text?

**Concepts:** What key concepts or ideas do you think are important and worth holding onto from the text?

**Changes:** What *changes* in attitudes in the characters thinking and/or actions are suggested by the text?

## Part Three: Mein Kampf



### The Way Home

#### *Step Inside*

Step inside Hans Hubermann and answer the following:

1. What can Hans see, observe or notice?
2. What does Hans know, understand and believe?

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3. What does Hans care deeply about?
4. What might Hans be wondering about or be questioning?

#### **The Mayor's Library**

1. Why is Liesel avoiding the mayor's house on her laundry rounds?
2. How does Frau Hermann behave?
3. What does Frau Hermann show Liesel?

#### **Enter, The Struggler**

1. What words does Death first use to describe Max?
2. What items does the visitor bring Max? Why do you think he is bringing this?

#### **The Attributes of Summer**

1. What does Liesel notice about Hans? (p115) What problems does he have in his life?
2. What was the name Liesel found inside a book cover? Who is this person?
3. How does Death remember this person?
4. What is happening to Rudy's family? (p161)
5. Is Himmel Street really heaven for the Steiners and the Hubermanns? Why/Why not?
6. What drove Liesel and Rudy to thievery? Do you think this is justified? Why/Why not?

#### **The Aryan Shop Keeper**

1. Describe Frau Diller's behaviour.

#### **The Struggler, Continued**

1. What page number was Max's ticket put in? Is this a lucky number?
2. Max has "The small- no stench- of guilt" why does he feel guilty?

#### **Tricksters**

1. Why does Death argue that Liesel has it easy?
2. Does Liesel feel guilty for stealing food from Otto? Why/Why not?

#### **The Struggler, Concluded**

1. What is Max thinking/feeling as he approaches the Hubermann's house?

## Part Four: The Standover Man



### The Accordionist (The Secret Life of Hans Hubermann)

1. What is Death's *Small but noteworthy note*?
2. What does this noteworthy note suggest about war?
3. What did Erik Vandenburg teach Hans?
4. How is Max described as a child?
5. What are Hans' reasons for not joining the NSDAP?
6. What does Hans do for Mr Kleinman? What did this suggest about him as a person?

### A Short History of the Jewish Fist-Fighter

1. What did Max love when he was young?
2. What did Max think about how his Uncle faced death?
3. What does Max imagine will happen when he dies? How does he picture Death?
4. How did Max feel when he was pushed out by the rest of his family?
5. Whose plan was it for Max to carry *Mein Kampf*? Why was this a "genius" idea?

### The Wrath of Rosa

Imagine you are Rosa, Hans or Max in the kitchen and complete the following:

1. I am thinking.....Because.....
2. A question/concern I have as Max/Rosa/Hans is.....

### Liesel's Lecture

1. Hans tells Liesel of all the horrible things that will happen if she tells anyone about Max. Why doesn't he comfort her when she gets upset?
2. How does Rosa behave towards Liesel at the end of the chapter?

### The Swapping of Nightmares

1. What two expressions does Max have a constant urge to say? Why?
  2. What does Death compare hiding a Jew to?
  3. How is Rudy approaching life?
  4. What was Max perplexed about whilst sitting in the corner of Mama and Papa's room?
  5. What does the description of a 'Jewish Rat' suggest?
- A. Hampton

6. How does Liesel describe Max's hair?
7. What does Hans think Liesel and Max have in common?
8. What do Liesel and Max dream about?

### Pages from the Basement

#### The Standover Man

Before reading *The Standover Man* look at the just the drawings.

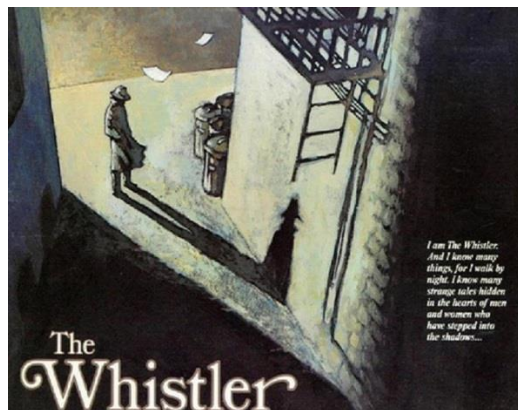
1. What story do you think the pictures are telling?
2. Who are the characters?
3. What is their relationship?
4. What are they talking about/discussing?
5. What is the significance of the last page?

Write your own text to accompany the drawings.

Now read *The Standover Man* that Max wrote.

6. How does your text compare to the original?
7. What are the similarities and differences between each one?
8. What was the message Max was trying to make?

## Part Six: The Whistler



### The Floating Book (Part 1)

1. What major event does Death foreshadow in this chapter?
2. How does this announcement effect you as a reader?
3. What does Death want us to know about him?

### The Gamblers (A Seven Sided Dice)

1. Why does Death think hiding a Jew is like "rolling a dice"?
  2. Re-create Max's drawing of him and Liesel; write the sentence he wrote beneath his picture.
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3. In Max's imagination he has a boxing match against Hitler.
  - a. What does Hitler tell the crowd about Jewish people?
  - b. What does it mean when Zusak writes "Max Vandenburg could feel the fists of an entire nation."
4. What does Ilsa Hermann give Liesel?
5. What does the description of Ilsa Herman smiling in a "useless, beaten way" suggest (p281)?
6. Why is Liesel so upset by what Ilsa has done?
7. Death writes that Liesel finds herself capable of "The injury of words. Yes, the brutality of words." What does this mean?
8. "Papa hadn't shaved for a few weeks" what does this suggest about the situation in the Hubermann household?

### **The Losers**

1. In a Venn diagram compare Arthur Berg and Viktor Chemmel as leaders.

### **The Whistler and the Shoes**

1. What does Liesel notice about Rudy at the end of this passage?

### **Three Acts of Stupidity by Rudy Steiner**

1. What are the three acts of stupidity does Death provide?
2. Why does Rudy start behaving differently?

### **The Floating Book (Part II)**

1. What are three words Zusak used to describe the book being thrown?
2. Why does Death think Rudy was scared of Liesel's kiss?

Complete the following about Part Six:

**Connections:** What connections do you draw between your own life or your other learning?

**Challenge:** what ideas, positions or assumptions do you want to *challenge* or *argue* with in the text?

**Concepts:** What key concepts or ideas do you think are important and worth holding onto from the text?

**Changes:** What *changes* in attitudes in the characters thinking and/or actions are suggested by the text?

## Part Six: The Dream Carrier



### Death's Diary: 1942

1. Why did Death feel like he needed a holiday?
2. What frustrates Death in regards to his appearance?
3. Draw an image that comes to mind from the following quote:  
"To me, war is like the new boss who expects the impossible. He stands over your shoulder repeating one thing, incessantly 'Get it done, get it done.'"

### The Snowman

1. Why is the snowman important in Max and Liesel's relationship?
2. Why does Liesel feel guilty at the end of this passage? Do you think she should have felt guilty?

### Thirteen Presents

1. What happened when Death visits Max? What does this suggest about Max?

### Fresh Air, and Old Nightmare, and What to do with a Jewish Corpse

1. What dreams does Liesel think of when she finds the *Dream Carrier* book?
2. Why did the Hubermanns need to revive Max's corpse?
3. What do you think is meant by Liesel wondering about "the height of her heart"?
4. What do you think Liesel's dream of Max replacing her brother means?
5. What does Rosa's visit to Liesel's school suggest about her character?
6. What could the toy soldier be symbolic of? Why do you think Max liked it the best?

### The Visitor

1. What is Max holding when the Hubermann's find him in the basement after the inspection?
2. Why does Max apologise to the Hubermann's? How is he feeling?

### Death's Diary: The Parisians

1. "For me the sky was the colour of Jews." P 372  
Why would Death describe the sky like this? What do you imagine it looks like?

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## Part Seven: The Complete Duden Dictionary and Thesaurus



### The Trilogy

1. List three things you learn about Frau Hermann from her letter.
2. Why doesn't Liesel think she deserves to be happy?

### The Sound of Sirens

1. What does Max do when the Hubermann's are sheltering from the bomb? Why?

### The Long Walk to Dachau

#### Step Inside

Think of a person who is a part of the event (it could be a German bystander, a Jew, Hans, Rudy, a soldier- not Liesel). Answer the following:

1. What can this person see, observe, notice?
2. What might this person know, understand, hold true or believe
3. What might this person care deeply about?
4. What might the person wonder about or question?

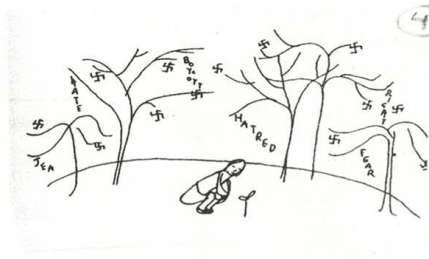
### Peace

1. What does Max mean when he leaves the note for Hans that says "You've done enough." Why is this note significant?

### The Idiot and the Coatmen

1. "The kitchen cupboards were the shape of guilt, and his palms were oily with the memory of what he had done." Why does Hans feel so guilty? Do you think he should be feeling guilty? Why/why not?

## Part Eight: The Word Shaker



### Dominoes and Darkness

Imagine being Alex Steiner or Barba Steiner and explore their thoughts about sending Rudy off to the school:

1. I am thinking.....Because.....
2. A question/concern I have is.....

### Punishment

1. What are some of the punishments that everyone had to endure in Nazi Germany?
2. Rosa and Han's faces are "like ghost towns" what does this mean?

### The Promise-Keeper's Wife

1. Why is the image of Rosa holding the accordion so significant?
2. What does it reveal about Rosa?

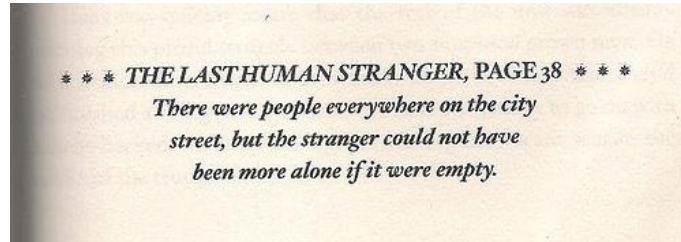
### The Collector

1. What job does Hans have to do when he is in the army?

### The Hidden Sketch Book

1. What is the gift that Rosa gives Liesel? Why do you think she believes Liesel is now ready for it?
2. What do you think the meaning of *The Word Shaker* is?

## Part Nine: The Last Human Stranger



### One Toolbox, One Bleeder, One Bear

1. How does Rudy define stealing?
2. What does Michael Holtzpfel struggle with when he is in the basement?
3. What is the significance of Liesel giving the pilot the bear?
4. Explain this quote "I'm always finding humans at their best and worst. I see their ugly and their beauty and I wonder how the same thing can be both."p522

## Part Ten: The Book Thief



### Way of the Words

1. How does Liesel notice Max?
2. What adjectives does Zusak use to describe what Max looks like?
3. When the soldier notices Liesel and takes her from Max she notices Max's fear. Zusak writes "She had seen him afraid, but never like this." What does this suggest about Max?

### Confessions

1. How does Liesel show her trust in Rudy?
2. What does this suggest about their relationship?

### Ilsa Hermann's Little Black Book

1. Why do you think Liesel destroys a book after seeing Max?

### The Ribcage Planes

1. What is the last sentence in *The Book Thief*? Explain what this means.

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### **The End of the World (Part II)**

1. Explain this quote “He does something to me, that boy. Every time. It’s his only detriment. He steps on my heart. He makes me cry.”p565
2. What does Death tell the reader about Rosa?
3. What was Liesel holding as she came up from the basement? What does this symbolise?



As the moral compass of the novel, Liesel questions society and does what she thinks is right not what society dictates.

She is motivated by a sense of **guilt** as well as **justice**.

## The Power of Language



Liesel discovers the power of language. She realises that language enables her to broaden her view of the world through reading.

She also realises, that language is a dangerous weapon used for Nazi propaganda.

## A Powerful Character

By the end of the novel she has evolved from a powerless little girl to a powerful character who deeply empathizes with the voiceless.

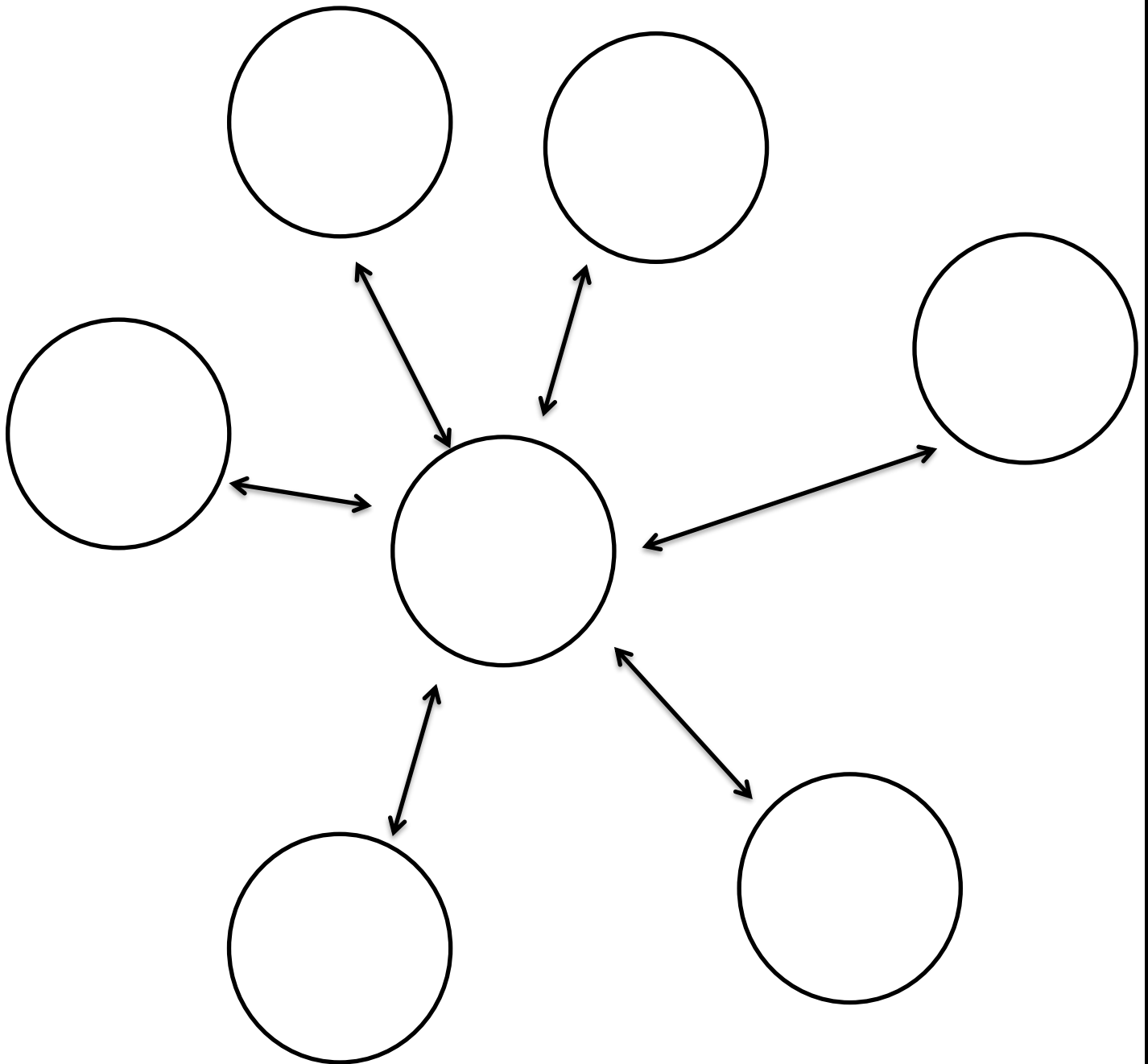
## Leisel's Journey

Chart the major events that occur in Liesel's life which change her:

## Relationships

Relationships are extremely important to Liesel. Complete the following exploration of the relationships in her life:

1. Write Liesel's name in the centre circle of the diagram below.
2. Write the names of other important characters in the other circles. Write key words that describe the nature of the relationship.
3. On the next page comment on the relationship between Liesel and each character.



**Relationships in Liesel's Life:**

**Comment on the six relationships you drew in the diagram on the previous page. What was their relationship like? What made the elements of their relationship unique?**

**Relationship 1: Liesel and .....**

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**Relationship 2: Liesel and .....**

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**Relationship 3: Liesel and .....**

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**Relationship 4: Liesel and .....**

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**Relationship 5: Liesel and .....**

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**Relationship 6: Liesel and .....**

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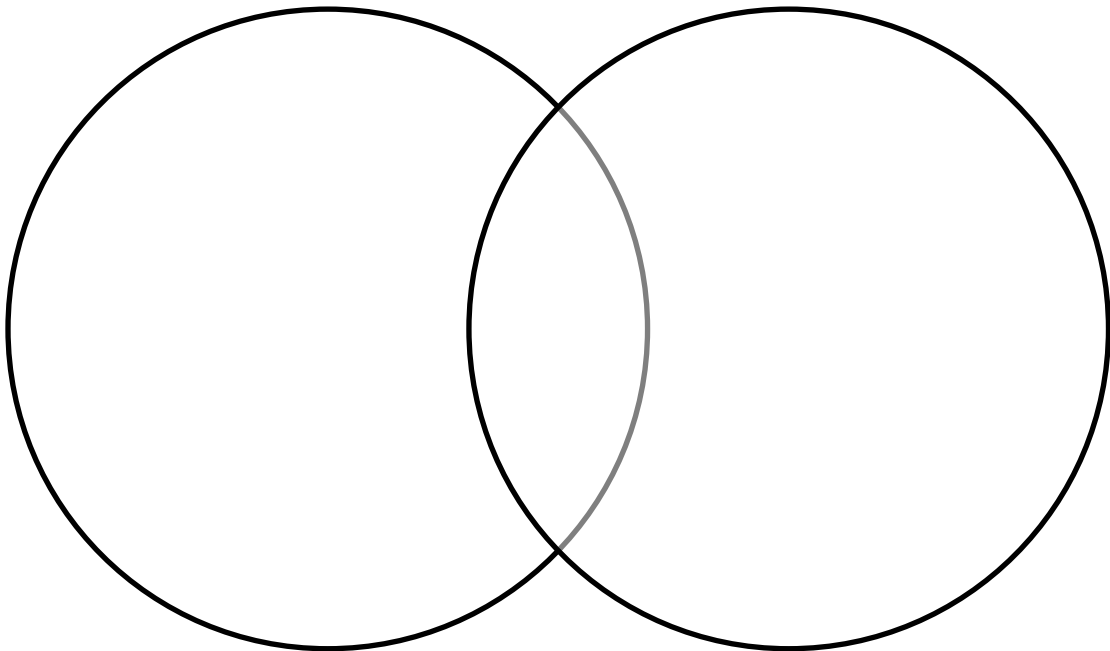
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## Liesel and Max



1. Compare the lives between Liesel and Max. What similarities do they share? What differences?

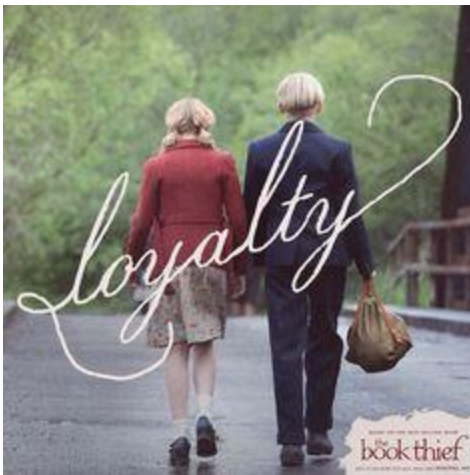


2. How does Max's life give Liesel purpose?
3. At what point do Liesel and Max become friends?

## Liesel and Rudy



1. How does Liesel and Rudy's friendship change throughout the novel?
2. Death says that Rudy does not offer his friendship "for free" (p.51)  
What does Rudy want from Liesel?
3. Discuss Death's statement "The only thing worse than a boy who hates you is a boy who loves you."(p 52)  
Why is it difficult for Liesel to love Rudy? (150-200 word answer with quotes)
4. Discuss why Liesel tells Mr Steiner that she kissed Rudy's dead body. (150-200 word answer)





## Vocabulary

Define and find synonyms for the following words that describe Hans:

Word	Definition	Synonyms
Patient		
Kind		
Wise		
Generous		
Empathetic		
Sympathetic		
Moral		

## Hans and Hans Junior

Re-read *A Short History of Hans Hubermann vs His son* (p112-114) (Part II Hitler's Birthday)

1. Describe the relationship between Hans Junior and Hans.
2. Why does Hans Junior think his father is a "coward"?
3. "Was he really a coward, as his son so brutally pointed out?" p 115

In the box below brainstorm the ways in which Hans shows bravery in the novel:

<p><b>Hans's Bravery</b></p>
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Discuss in a 200 word response how Hans demonstrates courage.

A. Hampton

4. How does it take courage to oppose Hitler?

## Hans and Guilt

Re-read *The Accordionist (The Secret Life of Hans Hubermann)* (p187) Part 4

1. Hans believes that Erik Vandenburg “saved (his) life” (p193). Why does he think this?
2. Explain why Hans feels guilty about Erik’s death.
3. How does Hans channel his guilt into helping others?

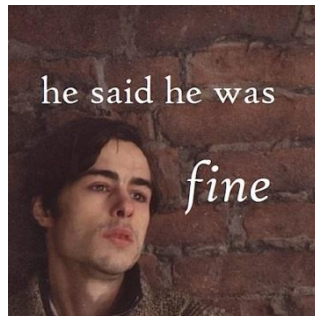
## Hans and Liesel



1. Find five quotes that demonstrate Liesel and Hans’s relationship.
2. From the beginning Liesel feels closer to Hans than the Rosa. How does Hans gain Liesel’s love and trust?
3. Do you think Liesel is a substitute for Hans’ children who have abandoned him? Why/Why not?



## Max and Guilt



1. Explain Max's thought "Living was living. The price was guilt and shame." Why does he feel guilt and shame?
2. Do you think Max should have felt guilty? Why/Why not?

## Max's Journey

Chart the major events that occurred in Max's life from the beginning of the novel to the end.

At the beginning of the novel Max is.....

At the end of the novel Max is.....





## Analysis Questions –Rudy Steiner

1. List five examples of when Rudy protects another person.
2. Re-read *The Jesse Owens incident*.
  - a. How did Mr Steiner act when he saw Rudy pretending to be Jesse Owens?
  - b. What is Mr Steiner trying to make Rudy understand when he tells him that he should be “happy” with his “beautiful blonde hair and big, safe eyes”?
  - c. What does Rudy’s behaviour in this chapter reveal about his character?
3. Re-read *The Way of the Words*.
  - a. Rudy “collected...punches [for Liesel] as if they were presents” what does this suggest about his character?