

Honors English II

The Book Thief Major Work Review/BONUS

1. Compose two different theme statements for *The Book Thief*. [Zusak's (specific type) novel *The Book Thief* (precise verb) the issue of (abstract concept), ultimately revealing (theme—an assertion about the human condition).] Then, cite focused quotations from crucial scenes that illustrate each of your stated themes.

Theme Statement	3 Quotations	Commentary (How does each quotation support your theme?)
	(1) (2) (3)	(1) (2) (3)
	(1) (2) (3)	(1) (2) (3)

2. What is the significance of the full title, *The Book Thief*, and the beginning and ending of the novel (analyzing the change or lack thereof that takes place in the work)?

Significance of Title	Evidence	Commentary
Significance of Beginning	Evidence	Commentary
Significance of Ending	Evidence	Commentary

3. What is the function of setting in *The Book Thief*? Consider the multiple aspects of setting (geography, time period, culture, religion, social class, moral standards, politics, social/familial relationships, gender roles, and occupations) in your analysis.

Aspect	Function	Evidence	Commentary

4. What are the central conflicts (external and internal) around which *The Book Thief* centers? You may add additional internal or external conflicts.

Internal Conflict (Identify character.)	External Conflict	External Conflict
Evidence	Evidence	Evidence
Commentary	Commentary	Commentary

5. Describe the novel's point of view, narrative structure, and genre. How do these elements contribute or relate to the work's meaning?

Point of View	How does the point of view affect the narration?	Evidence	Commentary
Narrative Structure	How does the narrative structure contribute to the work's meaning?	Evidence	Commentary
Genre	How does the type of work relate to its meaning?	Evidence	Commentary

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6. Identify and explain the five most pivotal events (one must be the climax of the novel) that affect the development of plot and character, and explain their impact.

Details of Event	Commentary
1.	
2.	
3. (<i>Climax</i>)	
4.	
5.	

7. In analyzing the characters and their roles, complete the following tasks:
- Provide at least two precise and vivid adjectives to describe each character to reveal complex or static nature.
 - Identify each of the characters by their function: for example, narrator, protagonist, antagonist, archetype, foil, confidant, or mentor.
 - How do these characters and the roles they play impact the plot and meaning?
 - Support your assertions about the characters with two examples/quotations of their actions or statements and explain this evidence.

<i>Liesel</i>	<i>Rudy Steiner</i>	<i>Hans Hubermann</i>
adjectives	adjectives	adjectives
function	function	function
impact	impact	impact
evidence 1	evidence 1	evidence 1
evidence 2	evidence 2	evidence 2
<i>Rosa Hubermann</i>	<i>Max Vandenburg</i>	<i>Ilsa Hermann</i>
adjectives	adjectives	adjectives
function	function	function
impact	impact	impact
evidence 1	evidence 1	evidence 1
evidence 2	evidence 2	evidence 2

8. Choose two of the following prompts. For each of the prompts you choose, write a thesis statement and two topic sentences. For each topic sentence, provide two specific details from the novel for evidence (four specific details for each prompt). Remember, a topic sentence is an assertion, related to the thesis, which must be proven with evidence. AVOID PLOT SUMMARY.
- In *Contending Forces*, Pauline Hopkins asserts, "And, after all, our surroundings influence our lives and characters as much as fate, destiny or any supernatural agency." Choose a novel or play in which cultural, physical, or geographical surroundings shape psychological or moral traits in a character. Then write a well-organized essay in which you analyze how surroundings affect this character and illuminate the meaning of the work as a whole.
 - Palestinian American literary theorist and cultural critic Edward Said has written that "Exile is strangely compelling to think about but terrible to experience. It is the unhealable rift forced between a human being and a native place, between the self and its true home: its essential sadness can never be surmounted." Yet Said has also said that exile can

become “a potent, even enriching” experience. Select a novel, play, or epic in which a character experiences such a rift and becomes cut off from “home,” whether that home is the character’s birthplace, family, homeland, or other special place. Then write an essay in which you analyze how the character’s experience with exile is both alienating and enriching, and how this experience illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.

- c. A symbol is an object, action, or event that represents something or that creates a range of associations beyond itself. In literary works a symbol can express an idea, clarify meaning, or enlarge literal meaning. Select a novel or play and, focusing on one symbol, write an essay analyzing how that symbol functions in the work and what it reveals about the characters or themes of the work as a whole. Do not merely summarize the plot.
- d. In many works of literature, a physical journey—the literal movement from one place to another—plays a central role. Choose a novel, play, or epic poem in which a physical journey is an important element and discuss how the journey adds to the meaning of the work as a whole.
- e. The most important themes in literature are sometimes developed in scenes in which a death or deaths take place. Choose a novel or play and write a well-organized essay in which you show how a specific death scene helps to illuminate the meaning of the work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summary.
- f. Writers often highlight the values of a culture or a society by using characters who are alienated from that culture or society because of gender, race, class, or creed. Choose a play or a novel in which such a character plays a significant role and show how that character's alienation reveals the surrounding society's assumptions and moral values.
- g. In some works of literature, a character who appears briefly, or who does not appear at all, is a significant presence. Choose a novel or play of literary merit and write an essay in which you show how such a character affects action, theme, or the development of other characters. Avoid plot summary.

Thesis	Topic Sentence 1	Evidence for TS 1	Topic Sentence 2	Evidence for TS 2
		(1)		(1)
		(2)		(2)
		(1)		(1)
		(2)		(2)