

Name _____ Due Date _____

PROLOGUE – *The Book Thief*

“A Mountain Range of Rubble” (1)

“Death and Chocolate” (3-5)

1. Who is the narrator of the novel?
2. Why does the narrator make it a point to notice colors?
3. What does the narrator need distraction from and why?

“Beside the Railway Line” (5-8)

4. Why was the narrator on the train?
5. Why did the narrator stay longer?
6. Who do you think is the Book Thief?

“The Eclipse” (9-11)

7. Who did the narrator come for? What happened to the man?
8. Who showed up during this scene?
9. What did the boy give to the pilot?

“The Flag” (12-15)

10. What is happening to make the sky red during this section?
11. What is happening to the book thief here?
12. What did the narrator do with the book?

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PART ONE – The Gravedigger’s Handbook
“Arrival on Himmel Street” (19-29)

1. Why is Liesel in a train at the opening of the novel? Where are they heading?
2. What happens to Liesel's younger brother while he is on the train?
3. Who is the Fuhrer? What year is it and how old is the book thief?
4. What did Liesel find in the snow?
5. Why were authorities there, questioning their lateness? Why do you think they were expecting them?
6. What town is Liesel being taken to? What is the name of the street and what does this street stand for?
7. Why is the name of the street ironic?
8. What are Liesel's first impressions of Rosa and Hans Hubermann? Describe them.

“Growing up a Saumensch” (30-35)

9. What is a saumensch?
10. Why was being a communist during this time dangerous? What does this tell you about Liesel’s parents and why they had to give her up?
11. How were Rosa’s creases made “in the cardboard texture of her complexion”?

12. List three things you learn about Hans Hubermann.

13. List three things you learn about Rosa.

14. How long did it take before Liesel finally bathed?

“The Woman with the Iron Fist” (36-45)

15. What does Hans do for Liesel during the first few weeks she is at his home?

16. What does *The Gravedigger’s Handbook* mean to Liesel at this point?

17. What do you learn about the Hubermann children?

18. What is school like for Liesel? Why?

19. When Liesel turned 10, what was her gift? What does this say about the Hubermanns?

20. What is the BDM and what did they do?

21. Why do you think Papa and Liesel never spoke about her learning at the BDM?

22. What does Rosa do for money? How does she speak about her clients?

23. What was unique about the mayor's wife and her house?

24. Who is Frau Holzapfel? Explain her and Rosa's relationship.

"The Kiss"(46-55)

25. Who is Rudy Steiner? As you read the chapter, list four things you learn about him.

26. Who is Frau Diller? What was her one golden rule?

27. Who is Tommy Muller? As you read the chapter, write a list of three things that you learn about him.

28. What was "the road of yellow stars"?

29. What was Rudy and Liesel's bet about and who won?

"The Jesse Owens Incident" (56-61)

30. Who was Jesse Owens? What was unique about him, especially in 1936?

31. What did Rudy do one evening because he was so impressed with Jesse Owens?

32. Why was this something innocent to Rudy?

33. What did Rudy's father say to Rudy about doing this?

34. How is what Rudy's father says and does contradictory? Why do you believe he is this way?

“The Other Side of Sandpaper” (62-68)

“The Smell of Friendship” (69-72)

“The Heavyweight Champion of the School-Yard” (73-80)

35. Why doesn't Hans Hubermann support Hitler?

36. When Hans changed Liesel's sheets, what did he find?

37. What did Liesel write four years later about Hans and reading?

38. Why do you think Liesel's hunger to read was so intense?

39. Hans did not realize that Liesel could not read at all. Because of this, what does he do?

40. On page 71, it says “that story would arrive at 33 Himmel Street in the early hours of the morning, wearing ruffled shoulders and a shivering jacket. It would carry a suitcase, and two questions. A story. Story after story. Story *within* story.” What do you think arrives? Explain.

41. In 1939, what begins?

42. Why was Liesel moved to her regular level class?

43. How did Liesel feel about being left out of reading in front of the class? What did she end up doing?

44. Describe Liesel's fight with Ludwig Schmeikl.

45. How does Rudy prove his true friendship in this chapter?

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PART TWO – “The Shoulder Shrug” (81 – 122)

“A Girl Made of Darkness” (83-84)

“The Joy of Cigarettes” (85-90)

“The Town Walker” (91-96)

“Dead Letters” (97-100)

1. Liesel is stealing her second book due to "anger and dark hatred." Why is she so angry?
2. What do Hans and Liesel accomplish in this chapter?
3. How does Hans get the money to buy Liesel a Christmas gift? What does he get her? How does Rosa react to his choice in this matter?
4. What does Hans bring home a few days later for Rosa? How did she react?
5. What starts happening with Rosa's clients? Why?
6. To whom does Liesel write?
7. When Rosa states about Liesel's mom, "Who knows what they've done to her?" (95). Who are *they* and what do you think this means?
8. Why does Rosa become so angry with Liesel and what does Rosa's apology actually mean?

“Hitler's Birthday, 1940” (101-107)

“100 Percent Pure German Sweat” (108-113)

“The Gates of Thievery” (114-117)

“Book of Fire” (118-122)

9. What is the point in the book burning?

10. How did the Fuhrer's birthday answer Liesel's questions about her mom?

11. What was Rosa worried about when she could not find the Nazi flag?

12. When it states that Hans junior's "silver in his eyes...had been Fuhrered," what does this mean?

13. How are Hans and his son different?

14. Hans' son calls him a coward; however, Hans responds back by saying, "Coward? *I'm* the coward?!" What does he mean by this?

15. Explain this: "The word *communist* + a large bonfire + a collection of dead letters + the suffering of her mother + the death of her brother = the *Fuhrer*."

16. Why did Hans smack Liesel? Explain the situation and what he was trying to do?

17. Who do you think saw Liesel take the book? Write the description of this person from page 122. Have you seen this description earlier in the novel?