Summer Reading Assignment ELA Grade 9 Eastside High School Ms. Lonna Turner

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Required Text: The Book Thief by Zusak Markus

Overview: You will read all ten parts of *The Book Thief* by Zusak Marcus. You will answer the following questions to assess comprehension of the themes and actions in the story. Please answer all questions in complete sentences. Each question should be answered in a minimum of 3 sentences. You may print out a copy of the questions or write them on a separate sheet of paper.

Questions for Essay and Discussion:
1. What are the pros and cons of Zusak's choice of using Death as the narrator? How might the novel have been different had the author chosen a different character to tell Liesel's story?
2. How important is it for the reader to be fully aware of the setting and time period to understand the novel? How does historical knowledge (wartime Germany) enhance the reader's understanding of the novel?
3. Identify the novel's rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.
4. Zusak has carefully chosen the chapter titles for his novel. Identify at least three chapter titles and their significance to both the chapter's content and to the novel as a whole.

5. The narrator uses several flashbacks in the novel. Identify at least three and explain their importance to the scene, chapter, and novel as a whole.
6. Identify several instances of foreshadowing in the novel and the effect on the chapter, part, or novel as a whole.
7. Identify all major characters in terms of being round or flat, static or dynamic. (Round= interesting, Flat= predictable, Static= still, Dynamic= changing).
8. In what ways does Zusak use figurative language to develop character and theme and to create mood?
9. Compare and contrast the two stories Max writes for Liesel, "The Standover Man" and "The Word Shaker."
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10. The role of chance plays a significant part in several characters' lives in the novel. Cite at least three characters who are affected by chance and note both the short and long-term results.
11. Discuss the changes in Liesel and Rudy's relationship throughout the novel.
12. Explain how promises and secrets play a significant role in the novel.
13. Describe the relationship between Liesel and Hans Hubermann and what ties the two together.
14. Give three examples of characters who suffer from guilt and explain the circumstances. Do others judge them in the same way that they judge themselves?

15. Compare and contrast Liesel and Max. How does each person give the other's life more purpose?
If you have any questions or need clarity on any part of the assignment, please feel free to contact me this summer via email. I look forward to meeting you all and having a great year together. Best of luck!
Sincerely,
Ms. Turner