



CLARKSVILLE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
SCHOOL SYSTEM

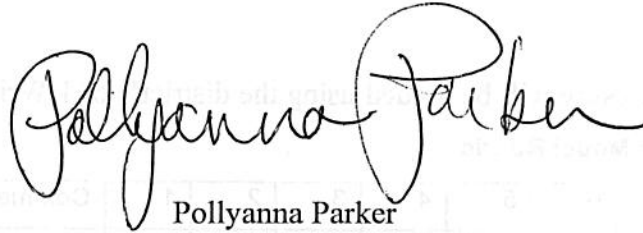
Future Honors English Students:

Welcome to Honors English I at Rossview High School. Honors English is a rigorous course. You will be expected to complete outside reading assignments in addition to regular class work.


The required summer assignment is as follows:

- Read *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak.
- Read the accompanying background information and vocabulary.
- Complete the guided reading questions as you read the novel.
- Upon completing the novel, compose an essay according to the requirements attached.
- The essay will be due the first full day of school and a test over the novel will be administered during the first full week of school. Please be prepared.

We look forward to working with you and hope you will have a successful freshman year.



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**Honors English I**  
**Summer Assignment: *The Book Thief* Essay**

**Directions:** Write an essay on the topic below. Your essay must be a fully developed 5-paragraph essay. It should be typed, double-spaced, using Times New Roman font (12 point). Your essay should include at least 3 specific quotes from the novel (in quotations marks—pages noted) that support your topic. You should make sure that you address all aspects of the prompt and include transitions as needed. The essay will be due on the first full day of school—no exceptions.

**Topic/Writing Prompt:** Discuss the symbolism of Death as the omniscient narrator of the novel. What are Death’s feelings for each victim? Describe Death’s attempt to resist Liesel. Death states, “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” (491). What is ugly and beautiful about Liesel, Rosa and Hans Hubermann, Max Vandenburg, Rudy Steiner, and Mrs. Hermann? Why is Death haunted by humans?

**Due Date:** The essay will be due on the first full day of school. The test will be given during the first full week of school.

**Grading:** The essay will be graded using the district’s 6+1 Writing Rubric (see below).

**District Writing Model Rubric**

| Traits           | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Comments |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------|
| Ideas            |   |   |   |   |   |   |          |
| Organization     |   |   |   |   |   |   |          |
| Word Choice      |   |   |   |   |   |   |          |
| Voice            |   |   |   |   |   |   |          |
| Sentence Fluency |   |   |   |   |   |   |          |
| Conventions      |   |   |   |   |   |   |          |
| Presentation     |   |   |   |   |   |   |          |

### ie Next Temptation–Homecoming

- propaganda: information that is spread for the purpose of promoting some cause
- indignant: angered at something unjust or wrong
- metronome: device used to mark time by means of regularly recurring ticks at adjustable intervals
- buoyed: heartened or inspired; uplifted
- semblance: the slightest appearance or trace
- quell: to suppress; put an end to; extinguish
- implored: begged urgently or piteously, as for aid or mercy

### e End of the World (Part I)–The Handover Man

- obliterated: removed or destroyed all traces of; did away with; destroyed completely
- bereaved: a person who has suffered the death of someone they love
- resolute: firmly resolved or determined; set in purpose or opinion
- desecrated: violated the sacred character of a place or language
- insufferable: not to be endured; intolerable; unbearable
- lustrous: having luster; shining; luminous
- detriment: something that causes damage, harm, or loss
- apocalyptic: predicting or presaging imminent disaster and total or universal destruction
- lolling: hanging or drooping laxly

### Death and Chocolate–The Kiss (A Childhood Decision Maker)

- What does Death identify as his “saving grace”?
- What appears to be the situation described in the chapter “Beside the Railway Line”?
- Describe the setting the second time Death sees the book thief.
- Why does Death describe the third time he sees the book thief as red?
- What does Liesel pick up from her brother’s gravesite?
- What does the book thief mean when she writes, “...the journey continued like *everything* had happened” (p. 25)?
- How does Liesel respond when she is brought to her foster family, the Hubermanns?
- What makes Liesel’s eyes “dangerous”?
- What word does Liesel associate with the memory of her father?
- What does Rosa tell Liesel to call her and Hans?
- What does Hans do in the mornings to comfort and entertain Liesel?
- Why is school in Molching painful for Liesel?
- What organization does Liesel join when she turns ten?
- Where does Hans go many nights to make money?
- For which of her washing customers does Rosa have the greatest disdain? Why?
- What does Frau Holtzapfel do every time she passes by the Hubermanns’ door?
- What must any customer of Frau Diller do to get served?
- What are the terms of Rudy and Liesel’s race?

### The Jesse Owens Incident–Dead Letters

1. What astonishing thing does Rudy do at the Hubert Oval?
2. Who is Mr. Kaufmann?
3. What does Hans discover under the mattress when Liesel wets her bed?
4. What does Hans begin doing the night Liesel wets the bed?
5. When they run out of sandpaper, how do Liesel and Hans write their words and pictures?
6. What does Liesel consider to be the “smell of friendship”?
7. Why is Liesel moved out of the younger class and put in the class with children her own age?
8. What happens when Liesel stands before the class to read?
9. What does Liesel do to Schmeikl when he teases her about her reading ability?
10. To what does Death attribute the success of the Nazi Party in Germany?
11. How did the Hubermanns pay for the books they bought Liesel for Christmas?
12. What bad news does Rosa’s customer Ernst Vogel give her?
13. Why does Rosa decide to send out Liesel to deal with her customers?
14. To whom does Liesel write for her school letter-writing assignment?

### Hitler’s Birthday, 1940–The Attributes of Summer

1. For what big event is Molching preparing?
2. From Death’s description, what can the reader infer has happened on “the road of yellow stars” (p. 102)?
3. What is the main source of tension between Hans Jr. and his father?
4. What hurtful thing does Hans Jr. call his father?
5. What does the Nazi speaking at the bonfire say that greatly disturbs Liesel?
6. Whom does Liesel help at the bonfire?
7. What does Hans do when Liesel says she hates Hitler?
8. What happens when Liesel puts the book under her shirt?
9. What does Hans buy at the Nazi Party office?
10. Why is Liesel afraid to pick up wash from the mayor’s wife?
11. What wondrous thing does the mayor’s wife show Liesel?
12. What items does the man bring to the Jew hidden in the basement?
13. Why is *The Shoulder Shrug* a banned book?
14. What does the reader learn about the mayor’s wife that explains her odd behavior?
15. What do Liesel and Rudy do to combat their hunger?

### The Aryan Shopkeeper–Liesel’s Lecture

1. What do Liesel and Rudy buy and share at Frau Diller’s?
2. What is ironic about the way Max avoids detection on the train?
3. Who helps Max escape the Nazis?
4. What is the English translation of *Mein Kampf*? Why is its meaning ironic to Max?
5. What plan do Rudy and Liesel devise to rob Otto Sturm?
6. What does Arthur Berg want Rudy and Liesel to do with Otto’s food basket?
7. What happens when the gang steals from the potato farmer?
8. What does Max do to propel himself forward on his walk to the Hubermanns’ home?
9. What does Max ask Hans upon entering his house?
10. What assignment was Hans Hubermann given the morning the rest of his company went into battle?
11. What promise did Hans make to Erik Vandenburg’s widow?
12. Why did Hans start losing painting customers?
13. What does Hans do for Joel Kleinmann, his “second” mistake?
14. What happened on June 16, 1939? Why do you think it is so firmly etched in Hans’ mind?

## Background Information

### Important Dates

1924—Hitler sent to prison after a failed coup d'état; writes *Mein Kampf*  
1933—January 30th: Adolf Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany; April 1st: Nazi boycott of Jewish-owned shops; May 10th: Nazis burn books in Germany; June: Nazis open Dachau concentration camp.

1934—August 19th: Adolf Hitler becomes Führer of Germany.

1935—March 16th: Hitler violates the Treaty of Versailles by introducing military conscription; September 15th: German Jews stripped of rights by Nuremberg Race Laws.

1936—February 10th: The German Gestapo is placed above the law; August 1st: Olympic Games begin in Berlin.

1937—November 5th: Hitler reveals war plans during Hossbach Conference.

1938—August 12th: German military mobilizes; October 15th: German troops occupy the Sudetenland; Czech Government resigns; November 9th–10th: *Kristallnacht*—The Night of Broken Glass

1939—January 30th: Hitler threatens Jews during Reichstag speech; August 31st: British Fleet mobilizes; Civilian evacuations from London begin; September 1st: Nazis invade Poland; September 3rd: Britain, France, Austria, and New Zealand declare war on Germany; September 17th: Soviets invade Poland; October: Nazis begin euthanizing sick and disabled Germans.

1941—June 22nd: Hitler breaks the non-aggression pact with Stalin and invades the Soviet Union; December 11th: Germany declares war on the United States.

1943—Hitler becomes increasingly erratic after being defeated at the Battle of Stalingrad; Mass killings continue with the "liquidation" of several Jewish ghettos in Europe; The deportation of Italian Jews to Auschwitz begins.

1944—June 6th: D-Day; Allies open a "second front" with landings at Normandy.

1945—April 29th: Dachau concentration camp is liberated; April 30th: Hitler commits suicide by biting into a cyanide capsule and shooting himself in the mouth.

### Literary Terms

Figures of speech—ways of using language that deviate from the literal, denotative meanings of words in order to suggest additional meanings or effects

Imile—a comparison between two things using "like" or "as"

metaphor—a comparison between two things; does not use "like" or "as"

personification—a figure of speech in which an inanimate object or abstraction is endowed with human qualities or abilities

metonymy—a figure of speech in which an attribute of something is used to stand for the thing self, such as "laurels" used for *glory*, "crown" used for *military officers*, or "crown" used for *royalty*.

## Glossary

### Death and Chocolate—The Kiss (A Childhood Decision Maker)

1. affable: friendly; cordial; warmly polite
2. septic: infected; putrid
3. innocuously: in a way not likely to irritate or offend; harmlessly
4. echelons: levels of command, authority, or rank
5. prolific: producing in high quantity or with great frequency
6. castigate: to criticize or reprimand severely

8. incense: to make angry; enrage
9. auspicious: promising success; favorable
10. raucous: harsh; strident; grating; rowdy; disorderly
11. lecher: free indulgence of lust; lewdness
12. misogynistic: of or characterized by a hatred of women
13. audacious: fearlessly and often recklessly daring; bold
14. nefarious: wicked in the extreme; abominable
6. self-deprecation: belittling or undervaluing oneself; excessively modest
7. caustic: severe; satirical; sharp
8. malice: desire to inflict injury, harm, or suffering on another
9. envisaged: contemplated; visualized
10. vociferously: loudly; noisily
11. debilitate: to make weak or feeble
12. pallid: pale; wan

### The Jesse Owens Incident—Dead Letters

1. disheveled: hanging loosely or in disorder; unkempt
2. luminary: a person who has attained eminence in his/her field; an inspiration to others
3. morbidity: disease; sickness
4. perusing: reading or examining, typically with great care
5. melancholic: a gloomy state of mind; depressed
6. lamented: expressed grief for or about; mourned
7. flippancy: frivolously disrespectful, shallow, or lacking in seriousness
8. crux: a vital, basic, decisive, or pivotal point
9. culminate: to end or arrive at a final stage
10. fruition: realization of something desired or worked for; accomplishment

### Hitler's Birthday, 1940—The Attributes of Summer

1. partisans: fervent, sometimes militant, supporters of a party, cause, faction, person, or idea
2. infernal: hellish; fiendish; extremely troublesome or annoying
3. kinetic: possessing, exerting, or displaying energy; energetic
4. consummate: complete or perfect; being of the highest or most extreme degree
5. culpability: responsibility for an error or crime; guilt
6. jocular: intended to excite laughter or amusement; funny; witty
7. melee: battle; fight
8. brandished: flaunted; swung around; displayed
9. euphoric: very happy; blissful
10. pensive: thoughtful; reflective

### The Aryan Shopkeeper—Liesel's Lecture

1. prattled: babbled; chattered
2. havoc: chaotic situation; chaos; confusion
3. conglomerate: composite organization; group
4. incongruous: not suited to circumstances; inappropriate
5. proffer: suggest; offer; extend
6. malignant: diseased; cancerous; destructive
7. apex: top; high point; acme
8. morose: depressed; pessimistic
9. ostracism: banished; cold-shouldering; exclusion
10. capitulate: to give in; cede
11. archetype: having the nature of a type; classic
12. emulate: to copy the actions of; follow; mimic; imitate
13. tirade: an angry outburst
14. dormant: inactive; sleeping
15. inaugural: the act of formally admitting someone to membership or office

### The Sleeper—The Gamblers (A Seven-Sided Die)

1. imperative: necessary; critical
2. beleaguered: harassed; beset

3. satirical: derisive; mocking; scornful

### Champagne and Accordions—The Idiot and the Coat Men

- nonplussed: filled with bewilderment
- formidable: of discouraging or awesome strength, size, or difficulty; intimidating
- animosity: bitter hostility or open enmity; active hatred
- bulbous: bulb-shaped; bulging
- stoic: seemingly indifferent to or unaffected by pleasure or pain
- opus: a literary work or composition
- nonchalance: cool indifference or lack of concern; casualness
- hapless: miserable; woe-begone; forlorn; pathetic
- temerity: reckless boldness; rashness
- vindication: justification against denial or censure

### Minions and Darkness—The Anarchist's Suit Collection

- cannier: more careful and shrewd, especially where one's own interests are concerned
- conglomeration: a cohering mass; cluster
- doggedly: with persistent effort; with stubborn tenacity
- miscreants: evildoers; villains
- livid: extremely angry; furious
- admonished: reprovved gently but earnestly
- vigil: a period of watchful attention maintained usually at night

- How did Max and Walter Kugler's friendship develop?
- What does Max's mother hand him before he escapes with Walter?
- What had Hans done with the copy of *Mein Kampf* he purchased on the night of Hitler's birthday?
- How does Rosa respond to Max's arrival?
- What threats does Hans make to instill in Liesel the importance of keeping Max secret?

### he Sleeper–The Gamblers (A Seven-Sided Die)

- What similarities between herself and Max does Liesel recognize right away?
- What does Max believe are the two most pitiful words he can say? Why does he feel this way?
- What price does Max pay for wanting to live?
- What changes does Liesel notice in Rosa after the arrival of Max?
- What does the family tell Trudy about Max when she comes to visit at Christmas? Why?
- To what does Liesel liken Max's freshly-washed hair?
- How does Max respond to Liesel's question about whether *Mein Kampf* is a good book?
- What do Max and Liesel share that brings a "small breakthrough" in their relationship?
- What does Liesel give Max on her birthday? How does this affect him?
- On what does Max compose his story, *The Standover Man*?
- What is meant by the words, "She saw an imaginary framed photo seep into the wall—a quiet-smiled secret" (p. 238)?
- What reason does Death give for revealing the ending of the story?
- What does Liesel imagine herself telling the mayor's wife one day as she reads in the library?
- What is Max's favorite part of the newspapers Liesel brings home?
- What does Max paint on the basement wall?
- What does Max daydream about to pass the time in the basement?
- Why does the mayor fire Rosa?
- Whom does Liesel see while she is yelling at the mayor's wife? Why do you think she sees this person?

### Rudy's Youth–The Floating Book (Part II)

- What does Rudy do to earn his extra laps and drills from Franz Deutscher?
- What sets Viktor Chemmel apart from the other members of the fruit-stealing gang?
- What is the subject of the book Max writes?
- What humiliating event makes Rudy hungry for a victory?
- What does Liesel steal from the mayor's house?
- What do Liesel and Rudy leave behind at the mayor's house?
- What does Rudy get caught stealing from the grocer?
- What question does Rudy purposely answer incorrectly?
- What final humiliation does Franz put Rudy through?
- How is Rudy's refusal to attend Hitler Youth finally resolved?
- What does Viktor Chemmel do to get his revenge on Rudy?

### Death's Diary: 1942–Death's Diary: The Parisians

- Whom does Death say he looks like?
- What do Liesel, Max, and the Hubermanns make in the basement at Christmas?
- What does Death say happened when he came for Max on Himmel Street that winter?
- What is the first "gift" Liesel brings to Max while he is sick?
- How does Liesel give Max a cloud?
- What makes Liesel choose *The Dream Carrier* in her second theft from the mayor's library?
- What does Death suggest about the mayor's open windows?
- What potential problem does Liesel overhear Rosa and Hans discussing?
- Describe the disturbing dream Liesel has.
- On what pretext does Rosa come to the school to tell Liesel Max has awakened?
- What does Rosa hand Liesel before she leaves the school?
- What does Death describe falling from the sky after the bombing of Cologne?
- Why is the NSDAP inspecting basements?
- How does Liesel get word to Hans about the basement inspections?
- How does Death feel about having to collect all of the dead during the war?

### Champagne and Accordions–The Idiot and the Coat Men

- Why does Hans' painting business pick up in the summer of 1942?
- What indispensable item do Liesel and Hans bring on all his painting jobs?
- With what does one of Hans' more wealthy clients pay him for a painting job?
- What prevents Liesel from asking Hans to teach her to play the accordion?
- Why does Rudy fail to win the fourth race? Do you believe that he did this on purpose? Why or why not?
- Why does Liesel choose *A Song in the Dark* as her next stolen book?
- What is tucked inside the dictionary Liesel steals from the mayor's house?
- What does Max confess to having done during the first bomb scare?
- What does Liesel do in the bomb shelter that calms people's fears?
- What damage does Molching suffer in the first bombing?
- What does Frau Holtzapfel want Liesel to do for her in exchange for coffee rations?
- What does Hans do during the march of the Jewish prisoners?

13. What is the major repercussion of Hans' gesture?
14. What does Max write in the note he leaves for Hans?
15. Why does Hans wish the Nazis would come for him?

### Dominoes and Darkness–The Anarchist's Suit Collection

1. What game are Rudy and his sisters playing while the black-coated men talk to his parents?
2. What do the men want with Rudy? Why do the Steiners resist?
3. How are Hans and Alex Steiner punished for their respective crimes against the Nazi Party?
4. How does Rosa wake Hans the morning he leaves for the army?
5. Where does Rudy claim to be walking when he and Liesel head out of town one day?
6. What poignant thing does Liesel find Rosa doing one night?
7. What jobs are Alex Steiner and Hans given in the army?
8. Why does Hans' crew misdirect the woman looking for her son from what was most certainly his body?
9. What turns out to be one of Liesel's favorite distractions from worrying about Max, Hans, and Alex Steiner?
10. What do Rudy and Liesel put on the road before the Jews are paraded by?
11. What does Rosa pull out from under the mattress for Liesel?
12. According to *The Word Shaker*, how did Hitler get the idea to rule the world with words?
13. What does Liesel give Rudy for Christmas?

### The Next Temptation–Homecoming

1. What had Ilse Herrmann left on the windowsill for Liesel?
2. What is embroidered on Ilse Herrmann's bathrobe and slippers?
3. Why does Reinhold Zucker grow to despise Hans?
4. What happened to Michael Holtzapfel's hand?
5. How did Robert Holtzapfel die?
6. What does Liesel return to the Hermanns' house?
7. How does Rosa spend her nights while Hans is gone?
8. What is ironic about the way Reinhold Zucker dies?

9. Why does Hans get sent home?
10. What reason does Rudy give for bringing a teddy bear along on his trip?
11. What happens to Rudy's "career" as a thief?
12. What does Frau Holtzapfel do when the air raids begin again?
13. With whom does Liesel come face to face in the airplane?
14. What does Rudy give the pilot of the downed plane to comfort him a bit?
15. Who arrives at the Hubermanns' at the end of this section?

### The End of the World (Part I)–The Handover Man

1. Why is Liesel the only person to survive the final bombing on Himmel Street?
2. How does Death describe the souls of Rosa and Hans Hubermann?
3. Why does Michael Holtzapfel kill himself?
4. What does Death imagine is happening in Frau Holtzapfel's kitchen a week after the bombing?
5. What does Liesel quote the second time she jumps into the line of fire?
6. What happens to Max and Liesel when they are discovered by the Nazis?
7. What does Liesel realize as she is confiding to Rudy about Max?
8. Why does Liesel tear up the book in Ilse Herrmann's library?
9. Why does Ilse Herrmann come to Liesel's house?
10. What does Liesel do when she finds Rudy's body?
11. What vision does Liesel have as she says goodbye to Hans?
12. What does Death take from the back of the garbage truck?
13. Where does Liesel die?
14. Where does Liesel go after the Hubermanns die?
15. Who walks into Alex Steiner's shop after the war?
16. What does Death give Liesel when he comes to take her soul away?
17. What is Death's final revelation to Liesel and the reader? Why do you think this way?