

“It amazes me what humans can do, even when streams are flowing down their faces and they stagger on, coughing and searching, and finding.”

PHS English I Honors Summer Reading

SURVIVOR: one who continues to remain alive or exist or to function or prosper despite hardships

This summer, the English I Honors team would like you to read ***The Book Thief*** by Markus Zusak. Please **purchase a paper copy** and **write notes IN THE BOOK on any three of these characters** as you read:

- Death (narrator)
- Rudy
- Hans
- Liesel
- Max
- Rosa

Mark the pages your notes are on with three different colored adhesive notes or taggers. Create a legend in the front cover of your book that matches each color to its character.

For your notes, reflect on each character as a kind of survivor. **Locate two different situations in the story in which you would consider each character a survivor.** For each situation, make notes on these **three questions**:

1. What does the character survive in this part of the story?
2. What helps the character survive in this situation? (Look for multiple forms of assistance from both the character’s inner self AND outside of the character in the form of other people or sources).
3. What are the effects and/or results of the character’s survival on self, on others, AND on society?

Note: Some of these results may not become clear until much later in the story.

You should make a minimum of one note for all three questions for both situations you choose for each character (3 characters x 2 situations each x 3 notes for each situation = 18 notes minimum). Number your notes 1-3 on each character’s colored adhesive note/tagger so you can locate them easily for discussions.

We will begin discussing the book during the first full week of school, so if you don’t want any spoilers, start reading 3-4 weeks before school begins, and aim to finish the weekend after the first half-day. You will turn in your book for an annotation (note-taking) grade after the second full week of classes.

Join the Google Classroom for helpful resources (annotation examples, how-to videos, FAQs) we’ll post throughout the summer: **in56lqa**.

If you have any questions, email Mr. Baker at john.baker@wcs.edu, Mrs. Guertin at nicoleg1@wcs.edu, or Ms. Wilson at jennifer.wilson@wcs.edu. We are looking forward to a great year in English I Honors!