



## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading – English I

### **Required Grade Level Book:**

**Zusak, Markus. *The Book Thief* (Historical Fiction)**

**The extraordinary, beloved novel about the ability of books to feed the soul even in the darkest of times.**

When Death has a story to tell, you listen.

It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still.

Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.

Summary from Amazon.com

### **Dear Members of the Class of 2026,**

Welcome to English I! We are looking forward to working with you, and the first thing that we will be working on will be summer reading. The notes below will give you some tips about completing *The Book Thief*.

**I. Marking Your Text – Read with pen or pencil in hand. Try to read approximately 20 pages in a sitting, as this will be comparable to your homework assignments in the coming school year.**

- 1. What???** - Mark passages that you need to ask about.
- 2. Wow!!!** - Mark passages that strike you as meaningful, important, or that you just really like. Make a note of the ideas or emotions that these passages evoke.
- 3. Words** – Be sure to look up the new words that you need to understand in order to fully appreciate what you are reading.
- 4. Windows and Mirrors** – Make note of what you are reading that is *familiar* and that you can *relate* to (Mirrors) and what you are reading that provides a *new view* of the world and someone's way of life (Windows).

**II. Note-taking Tips – You may decide where you would like to take your notes. You may wish to try some combination of the following:**

- At the beginning or end of each chapter – Summarize key ideas. These notes will help to jog your memory in the fall.
- In the margin
- On tops of pages (They're easier to find at the top.)
- On sticky notes
- On a separate piece of paper or document
- In a journal

**III. Identify Themes** – Look for the big ideas in the text such as the power of words, reading, and writing.

**IV. Assignments** - When we return to school in the fall, you will be doing some writing based on *The Book Thief*. You will also take a quiz, but only after we have discussed the book together in class.