

# The Book Thief Essay Assignment

## ENG2D0 | Spring 2021

### Assignment Overview

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At the end of this unit you will be writing an **800-1000 word, four to five paragraph, literary essay** about *The Book Thief*, by Markus Zusak. You will select a theme and create a thesis statement that explores how the author conveys this message in the novel, or you can decide to pick your own theme to explore and create a thesis statement around that.

**Thesis Due Date:** Monday, June 7th

**Essay Due Date:** Thursday, June 17th, 2021

### Essay Requirements

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- 800 word minimum and 1000 word maximum
- Double space, 12-point font, 1 inch margins
- Indent your paragraphs
- MLA Format Throughout
  - Your name, course code, teacher name, submission date, at top left of 1st page
  - Proper quotation integration and citation format for quotations used
  - Italicize the title of the text
  - Works cited page
  - Last name in the top right corner of each page
  - Page numbers on each page (click “insert,” then “page numbers”)
- **Your essay must be structured as follows:**
  - A well-developed introduction paragraph (hook, T.A.G., summary) including an insightful thesis statement about one of the topics
  - 2-3 body paragraphs that support your thesis including 2-3 PPAs (point/proof/analysis) for each paragraph
    - If you have 3 points per paragraph, you can do 2 body paragraphs
    - If you have 2 points per paragraph, you need to do 3 body paragraphs
    - You should have **6** points in total
  - A concluding paragraph
  - A unique title that reflects your thesis

## Essay Writing Process

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You will follow the steps below to guide you in collecting and creating ideas to eventually write your essay. **More information will be given for each step as they are assigned.**

**Step One: Choose a topic** from one of the choices given in the list below

**Step Two: [Gather Ideas and Evidence](#)** as you read the rest of the book. You will need to take notes to help you come up with a focus for your essay (thesis) and support/evidence for your ideas.

**Step Three:** Using the ideas and evidence you have gathered in Step 2:

**A) Create a thesis**

**B) Decide on the **evidence**** (quotations) you will use to support your main points (2-3 PPAs per point)

**Step Four: Create an Outline** your supporting points, using an outline provided by teacher

**Step Five: Create a rough draft of your essay** using the resources and guidelines given to you by your teacher.

**Step Six: Peer and self edit your rough draft several times.**

**Step Seven: Create a final copy of your essay and submit.**

**Guidelines, lessons and resources for the above steps will be provided as we reach each phase of the essay writing process.**

1. **What theme does the novel convey about human behaviour in times of conflict/war?**
  - a. Choose 2-3 different characters (one character per paragraph) to focus your analysis and support your thesis.
  - b. You might discuss herd mentality, making tough decisions in order to survive, ethical choices people have to make
  
2. **What theme does the novel show us about crime or criminality and how it is shown to be a paradox in the novel ?**
  - a. Choose 2-3 different circumstances to focus your analysis and support your thesis.
  - b. You might discuss where normal criminal behaviour is seen as just (during WWII) and normal just/humane behaviour as unlawful
  
3. **What theme does the novel tell us about the power of words and human behaviour?**
  - a. Choose 2-3 different circumstances or characters to focus your analysis and support your thesis.
  - b. You might discuss how words can negatively influence people's actions/beliefs through things such as propaganda, speeches, books,
  - c. You might discuss how words can positively influence people's actions/beliefs through things such as education, reading to others for calm, writing books to express oneself/therapy
  
4. **Create a thematic statement that is debatable and show how the author uses 2-3 literary devices (flashback, symbol, imagery, etc...) to emphasize your chosen thematic statement.**
  - a. The possibilities are endless here. If the book has made you think about a certain topic, then you can build on this. Consult the teacher to make sure you are on the right track.
  - b. You might discuss the different symbols in the novel and what they may represent and then you might want to consider the use of imagery or oxymorons

### Essay Rubric

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
<b>Success Criteria:</b> Student demonstrates an understanding of their chosen topic and their chosen theme			
- Shows limited understanding of the topic	- Shows some understanding of the topic	- Shows considerable understanding of the topic	- Shows thorough, insightful understanding of the topic
<b>Success Criteria:</b> Student demonstrates an understanding of the novel's plot, character, and themes			
- Shows limited knowledge of the play's plot, character, and themes	- Shows some knowledge of the play's plot, character, and themes	- Shows considerable knowledge of the play's	- Shows thorough and insightful knowledge of

		plot, character, and themes	the play's plot, character, and themes
<b>Success Criteria:</b> Student demonstrates an understanding of the structure of a literary essay			
- Shows limited command of the essay form - Frequent deviations in paragraph organization that regularly impact clarity; conclusion is missing or lacking relevance	- Shows some command of the essay form - Some deviations in paragraph organization that somewhat impact clarity; Conclusion is somewhat logical	- Shows good command of the essay form - Effective paragraph organization; logical conclusion	- Shows strong command of the essay form - Highly effective paragraph organization and a strong, creative conclusion
<b>Success Criteria:</b> Student is able to create and support a clear, persuasive thesis statement, using relevant evidence from the text to supporting their overarching ideas			
- Essay includes does not include a clear thesis statement; arguments are missing or unclear - Rarely selects and incorporates relevant, effective evidence for some points	- Essay includes a somewhat clear introduction and thesis statement, as well as three arguments; however, one or more is lacking clarity - Sometimes selects and incorporates somewhat well-chosen, relevant evidence for most points	- Essay includes clear introduction and thesis, as well as three logical arguments - Usually selects and incorporates considerably well- chosen, relevant evidence for all points	- Essay includes clear and thought-provoking introduction and thesis, as well as three highly persuasive arguments - Consistently selects and incorporates highly effective, well- chosen, and relevant evidence for all points
<b>Success Criteria:</b> Student is able to apply language conventions, including grammar, spelling, sentence structure, as well as effective language and voice (transition phrases)			
- Applies grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation with limited accuracy and effectiveness - Uses appropriate language and voice with limited effectiveness and consistency; rarely uses transition phrases	- Applies grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation with some accuracy and effectiveness - Uses appropriate language and voice with some effectiveness and consistency; sometimes uses transition phrases	- Applies grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation with considerable accuracy and effectiveness - Uses appropriate language and voice, including transition phrases, with considerable effectiveness and consistency	- Applies grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation with a high degree of accuracy and effectiveness - Uses appropriate language and voice, including transition phrases, with a high degree of effectiveness and consistency
<b>Success Criteria:</b> Student consistently applies MLA Format (first page, page numbers, citations, references page) to structure their paper, as well as to integrate and cite quotations			
- Uses MLA format with many errors; Rarely follows required style for all citations and references - Rarely attempts to integrate quotations	- Uses MLA format with some errors; Sometimes follows required style for all citations and references - Sometimes attempts to integrates quotations but further attention to detail is required	- Uses MLA format with very few, minor errors; Usually follows required style for all citations and references - Usually integrates quotations effectively	- Uses MLA format with no errors; Consistently follows required style for all citations and references - Consistently integrates quotations effectively
<b>Success Criteria:</b> Student is able to explain how and why their evidence supports their ideas			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develops ideas with limited logic and coherence; arguments do not connect with thesis statement</li> <li>- Shows limited command of analysis; Analyses are rarely consistently, connected to argument and thesis statement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develops ideas with some logic and coherence; some arguments connect directly to thesis</li> <li>- Shows some command of analysis; Analyses are sometimes connected to argument and thesis statement but much more development is needed (Use of keywords, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develops ideas with considerable logic and coherence; all arguments connected directly to thesis</li> <li>- Is beginning to show considerable command of analysis; Analyses are usually connected to argument and thesis statement but more development is needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develops ideas with a high degree of logic and coherence; all arguments connect directly and insightfully to thesis</li> <li>- Shows good command of analysis; Analyses are consistently connected to argument and thesis statement in a good amount of detail</li> </ul>
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**What theme does the novel convey about human behaviour in times of conflict/war?**

Choose 2-3 different characters (one character per paragraph) to focus your analysis and support your thesis.