🌞 **Summer Reading Assignment: *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak**
📘 **Overview:**
This summer, you'll read *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak and complete three short but meaningful assignments designed to keep your reading, writing, and critical thinking sharp. You'll explore character, theme, historical context, and your own emotional responses to the novel—all with plenty of choice.

🔄 Part 1: Reflective Reading Journal (2 entries)

(Part 1 – Parts 1–5 of the novel)

As you read, choose **two** of the following prompts to respond to. Write at least one thoughtful paragraph per prompt (about 150–200 words each). THESE SHOULD BE WRITTEN in **FIRST PERSON FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE**; use specific evidence from the novel and from your own experiences.

Choose from:

- What moment in the book made you feel the most conflicted or surprised? Why?
- How does Zusak use Death as a narrator to affect the tone or meaning of the story? How does it shape the way you think about mortality or grief?
- Pick a piece of text1 that stuck with you. What does it say about language, memory, or survival? How did it shift your understanding?
- What role does fear or courage play in the choices of Liesel, Hans, or Max? How does that reflect or contrast with your view of courage in today's world?

🔍 Part 2: Literary Lens Analysis

(Part 2 – Parts 6–8 of the novel)

Choose one **lens** from below and apply it to the novel. Use the attached chart to help organize your thoughts. This should be written in **first person** and include **evidence from the book and your own perspective**.

Lenses:

- **Historical/Cultural** – How does living in Nazi Germany shape the lives and choices of characters like Liesel, Rosa, Max, or Rudy? How does this compare to another moment in history or an issue you've learned about?

- **Psychological** – What motivates Liesel? How do her losses and relationships (especially with books and words) influence her behavior? How does that connect to something you've seen in real life or media?

- **Archetypal** – How does Liesel fit the role of a coming-of-age hero—or challenge it? How do other characters serve as mentors, shadows, or allies? Where have you seen these archetypes elsewhere?

🎨 Part 3: Creative Remix

(Pick one project based on Parts 9–10 of the novel)

Show your understanding of the text through one of the following creative options:

Option A: Visual Collage

Create a visual diary or collage from the perspective of:

- Liesel after the bombing

- Max in hiding

- Rudy reflecting on his dreams and losses

Include images, symbols, and quotes. Add short captions or journal-style notes to express emotion or theme.

Option B: Social Media Fallout

Create a series of Instagram posts, Tweets, or text threads reacting to a major event from Part 3 (examples: the bombing of Himmel Street, Max leaving, Rudy saving the boy).
Include:

- At least **3–5 posts or messages**

- Voice and tone that match the characters
- Hashtags or comments that reflect deeper themes (resistance, loss, memory, love)

Option C: Spoken Word or Protest Speech

Write a spoken word piece or speech from the perspective of a survivor or witness reacting to the violence or injustice around them.
Consider:

- Using repetition, rhythm, or imagery
- Referencing books, language, or memory as tools of survival
- Speaking beyond just one character's experience to address a larger truth

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Option D 🧠: Podcast Episode (Transcript or Plan)

Create a podcast episode plan or partial transcript for a show called **"The Book Thief: Stories that Stay"**
Segments could include:

- An interview with Max, Rosa, or Death
- A historical deep dive on WWII and youth during wartime
- A roundtable discussion on the power of language and resistance

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Option E 📺: Breaking News Segment

Write a script for a news anchor covering a major event from Part 3 as if it were breaking news.
Include:

- Quotes from characters (written by you)
- A clear news format (Who? What? Where? When? Why?)

- Subtle commentary or bias—how might the media spin these events?

Option F 🎭: "Where Are They Now?" Character Update

Write a 10-years-later update from the perspective of Liesel, Max, or Death.
Format it like:

- A blog post
- A documentary interview
- A Reddit AMA

Reflect on what's changed—and what hasn't. Keep the character voice intact but reimagine the setting. Add a short explanation (3–5 sentences) of what you changed and why.

Option G 🎨: Visual Theme Representation

Create a visual piece (drawing, painting, digital design, etc.) that captures a central theme such as:

- The power of words
- Memory and loss
- Love in times of war

Then write a short artist's statement (5–7 sentences) explaining how your visual choices reflect specific moments or emotions from Part 3.