



2026 Summer Assignment
English 9, Mrs. Jennifer Ehlers

Welcome to high school, and welcome to English 9!!

I'm looking forward to having you in class! We have a great year ahead of us, so let's start with your ***required*** Summer Reading assignment.



Directions

You will read ***The Book Thief*** by Markus Zusak. Original book only. No other versions. Absolutely no movie. (We will include that after school starts.)

*In a notebook that you will use for my class, please complete the following as you read: **1)** at the end of each chapter write down notes about what's happening, noting when major shifts happen (plot twist, character development/motivation, tone, etc.; **2)** at the end of each chapter write down a concluding thought or question; and **3)** at the end of the novel, write **three** thought-provoking/discussion questions that you would like to ask the class. Think about what you read - how it made you feel, what you thought of the characters or even the way in which the novel was written, ideas presented. Is it what you expected?*

*"Yes/No" questions will only be allowed if there's a follow up question. Together, they would count as **one** question.*

*I will check your notes (and questions) for a grade. You will use your questions for a Seminar-style discussion.

If you are a current Spencer student, there are a few copies available to check out for the summer (while supplies last).

This copy is on loan to you, and you will be responsible for replacing or paying for the book (\$10), should it be lost or ruined. If you want your own copy to write in, you can [buy it from Amazon](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B000APC88C) for \$8.01 (as of 5/1/26).

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