Welcome to 8th Grade

ELA

June 2018

Dear 8th Graders and Parents,

The summer slide: it sounds fun, but it can make the transition from seventh grade to eighth grade very difficult. Saints John and Paul School students can start strong in September if their reading habits don’t “slide” away during the summer.

Students entering 8th grade must read: 8A: The Book Thief by Markus Zusak and 8G: They Cage the Animals at Night by Jennings Michael Burch. After completing the novel, they are to complete the given exam/writing project. This will be collected and graded during the first week of school and will count towards their first ELA grade.

Please encourage your child to read other books for enjoyment this summer. Have a terrific summer! I am looking forward to seeing you in September.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Rose Scozzari
End of Book Exam

Part 1: Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. Where does Liesel’s brother die?
   A. In a hospital
   B. On a train
   C. At home in bed
   D. In Hans and Rosa’s basement

2. Which book does Liesel steal first?
   A. The Duden Dictionary
   B. The Shoulder Shrug
   C. The Grave-diggers Handbook
   D. The Whistler

3. What is the English translation of Himmel Street
   A. Heaven Street
   B. Hotdog Street
   C. Rubble Street
   D. High Street

4. What is the color of Hans’ eyes?
   A. Silver
   B. Blue
   C. Black
   D. Brown

5. Hans befriends Liesel by teaching her to
   A. Whistle
   B. Play the accordion
   C. Paint houses
   D. Roll his cigarettes

6. Why does Rudy cover his body with coal?
   A. To be invisible at night
   B. To play a black cat in the school play
   C. To imitate Jesse Owens
7. Why is Hans Jr. so belligerent with his father?
   A. He is angry that Hans Sr. is so poor
   B. He is angry that Hans Sr. isn’t a member of the Nazi party
   C. He is angry that Hans Sr. is hiding a Jew
   D. He is angry that Hans Sr. plays the accordion

8. At the book burning, when Liesel says she hates Hitler, Hans slaps her. He does this because
   A. He is patriotic and loves Hitler
   B. It is dangerous for Liesel to speak against Hitler in public
   C. She just stole a book, and Hans wants her to know stealing is wrong
   D. He is sick of her complaining

9. Ilsa Hermann lost her son. He died ___
   A. In Russia
   B. In a car accident
   C. In WWI
   D. During childbirth

10. In order to stay in shape in the basement, Max ___
    A. Does pushups and imagines he’s boxing Hitler
    B. Does sit-ups and imagines competing in the Olympics
    C. Does jumping jacks and imagines swimming in the Amper River
    D. Does yoga and imagines marrying Rosa Hubermann

11. When Rudy rescues Liesel’s book from the river, he hopes to be rewarded with ___
    A. An apple
    B. A cigarette
    C. A reading lesson
    D. A kiss

12. When Max gets sick, Rosa and Hans are very worries that he ______
    A. They can’t afford medicine
    B. His illness is contagious
    C. His coughing will alert the neighbors
    D. He’ll die and they’ll have to get rid of his body

13. At which battle was Michael Holtzapfel injured?
    A. Berlin
B. Leningrad  
C. Moscow  
D. Stalingrad  

14. After he gives bread to the Jewish prisoner being paraded through town, Hans’ attitude can best be described as ____
   A. Pride for having intervened  
   B. Disgust for having watched the parade  
   C. Sorrow over how the Jews are treated  
   D. Panic for having jeopardized Max’s safety.

15. According to Death, everyone in Nazi Germany had to take their turn being punished. What was Hans’ punishment?
   A. Being sent to war  
   B. Being sent to Dachau  
   C. Being forced to memorize the MKPF  
   D. Losing his job

16. After Hans leaves, Rosa stays up holding his accordion each night because
   A. She doesn’t want Liesel to play with it  
   B. She wants to learn to play it herself  
   C. It makes her feel close to Hans  
   D. She is worried it will get stolen

17. After Liesel tears up a book in Ilsa Hermann’s library, Ilsa brings Liesel a blank notebook so that
   A. Liesel can write a letter to her mother  
   B. Liesel can write her own story  
   C. Liesel can do math homework  
   D. Liesel can draw a picture of Max

18. When Himmel Street is bombed, Liesel is not killed because
   A. She is in Ilsa Hermann’s library  
   B. She is riding bikes with Rudy  
   C. She is in the Hubermann’s basement  
   D. She is looking for Max in the forest

19. Rudy finally gets what he wants from Liesel after the bombing when she gives him ____
   A. A teddy bear  
   B. The fourth Hitler Youth metal
C. A kiss
D. A book

20. Of the following characters, who survives the bombing on Himmel Street?
   A. Rudy
   B. Nobody
   C. Rosa
   D. Hans

21. When Death comes for Liesel, he gives her a book he rescued from the rubble the night of the bombing. What is it?
   A. The Book Thief
   B. The Grave-diggers Handbook
   C. The Whistler
   D. The Word Shaker

22. When Liesel asks Death if he read the book, he tells her is ____
   A. Not a fast reader
   B. Sorry for what happened during the war
   C. Haunted by humans
   D. Jealous that she gets to die
The Book Thief

Culminating Activity

For your final activity for the novel The Book Thief by Markus Zusak, you can select one of the following activities to complete. * indicates a more challenging assignment.

1. Book Review:
   Read a number of different book reviews from different sources. Try to identify the key points that form the framework of a successful review. These points include:
   - plot summary
   - description and discussion of characters
   - information about the settings
   - explanation of the themes
   - your personal response to the book
   - a recommendation and rating (usually a mark out of 10; a star rating or grade)
   - you may also provide information about the author

   Task: Write a book review of The Book Thief for publication in a newspaper, magazine or journal of teenage fiction.

2. Obituary:
   An obituary is a notice of the death of a person, usually in a newspaper, that includes a short biography.
   Follow the directions below: Format
   - You can put “Obituary” on the top of the page with the person’s name underneath OR write the person’s name on top as your title.
   - The obituary should be done in columns, so before you write, go to Format-click “columns”- Click “two”- Click “Ok”. This will set your writing in columns to make it look like it is in a newspaper.
   - Font size 12; Times New Roman
Task: Choose a major character from the novel. Compile a detailed character profile of them, their life and their achievements.
Include:
- place of birth
- age
- survivors
- biographical details
- comment on their strength of character and personality
- organizations/memberships

3. * Creative Writing:

Near the end of The Book Thief there is a big gap in the time between Liesel and Max reuniting at the end of the war to Liesel’s death in Sydney. What do you think the rest of Liesel’s life turned out to be like? What effect did war have on her personality?
Task: Write another chapter in the life of Liesel. This could be:
- just after she and Max reunite
- the events and decisions that lead her to leave Germany
- Who she married and how they met
- anything else of your choice
Short Answer Questions:

1. Consider Zusak’s use of foreshadowing. By revealing how characters die early on, or the outcomes to certain events, does Zusak make the novel less suspenseful or more? Explain.

2. Evaluate the pros and cons of Hans giving bread to an elderly Jew condemned to a concentration camp. Were the consequences worth the benefits? Explain.

3. How does the novel explore the idea of family? How is family defined at the beginning of the novel versus the end?