

***The Book Thief***

**Markus Zusak**

**Reviewed by: Parsa Bakhtiari: Age 17**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be The Star You Are! Charity**

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*The Book Thief*, by Markus Zusak, is basically a narration by “death” telling the story of Liesel Meminger. On the night of the Himmel Street bombing, death finds Liesel’s diary in a pile of destruction. Liesel was the only one on her street to survive the air raid. Her foster parents, Hans and Rosa Hubermann died as well as her best friend Rudy and many other people who were close friends of hers. Her diary consists of her time spent in Molching, Germany with her foster family on Himmel Street. When Liesel was on her way to see her foster parents for the first time her brother died. After she buried him she found a book that a man dropped on the ground called *The Gravediggers Handbook*. She stole it and when she got to her new home she hid it under her bed. Hans, her foster father, sees the book one night after comforting Liesel from a nightmare of her brother’s death and teaches her how to write and read. From that point on Liesel is obsessed with books. Liesel and Rosa work at the mayor’s house doing laundry and Liesel discovers that the mayor’s wife has a huge library in her home. Liesel begins to steal book from her library but the mayor’s wife doesn’t mind.

Overall, I would not recommend this book to someone who is already sad due to the heavy emotions within the book. I do recommend this book to someone who is quite happy and enjoys reading. This book targets an age group from about high school and beyond because you do need to have some maturity to handle and understand the emotional content of the book. This book would not make a good gift because it’s not a fun read, rather it is a good read meaning that it is not emotionally easy to take in and if read, it wouldn’t make someone happy. I highly recommend picking this book up for yourself to read and possibly with a friend to share all the emotion given to you from the book. Other Books I recommend reading after this: *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Mein Kempf*, Books about WWII and the Holocaust.