



English – Year 10 - PNC



Viewing worksheet- *The Book Thief*

A drama film directed by Brian Percival, based on the novel by Markus Zusak.

Pre-viewing – Before watching the film, read about its historical context and story.

The Holocaust was a tragedy for humanity – six million Jewish men, women and children were murdered by the Nazis. Many other groups such as Roma and Sinti, black people, communists, gay people, disabled people and others were also targeted and murdered. Acts of resistance and rescue took place across Europe, and saved many lives.

Liesel Meminger is adopted by a German couple in 1938 when her mother can't look after her. She settles into her new life in Berlin. She learns to read and makes friends with Rudi, the boy next door. But Nazi ideology begins affecting life around her.

Hitler's portrait hangs in her school. One night, all of the shops run by Jews have their windows smashed and people are being taken away. Liesel is taken to a book burning, and begins to understand what the Nazis believe in. Then one day, Max arrives. He is a Jew and he is in danger.

Sources: <https://www.ushmm.org/> ; <https://www.hmd.org.uk/>



While-viewing

1. Who is narrating the film?
2. What examples did you see of Nazi images in Liesel's school? Why were they there?
3. What was happening when the windows were smashed? What was the name given to this night? Why did the film put images of this violence over the song the children were singing?
4. Who is Jesse Owens? Why was Rudi told off for idolising him?
5. Why were they burning books on the Fuhrer's birthday?
6. What book does Liesel take from the burn pile?
7. Liesel's mother is described as a 'communist'. What does this mean, and why is it important to the story?
8. Why does Liesel steal books?
9. Max talks about his religion. What does this mean for him?
10. What does Max ask Liesel to describe for him imagining her "eyes could speak"?
11. What does Max teach Liesel? What does Max give Liesel for Christmas?
12. What does Max do during the air raid that he could not otherwise do?
13. Why does Max leave?
14. Who are the people with yellow stars on their clothes marching through town? What is happening to them?

After-viewing

1. How do we see the 'ugliness and beauty of humans' throughout the film?
2. Complete and explain Liesel's words (at the end, when she starts writing the book):
"For Max who gave me _____."
3. Explain how the movie's title is appropriate.
4. Describe your favourite character using a minimum of 4 adjectives.

Follow-up activity

<https://create.kahoot.it/details/a23ce432-774b-4f18-8a7f-748d89189bec>