

Advanced English 9 summer reading

Students registered for Advanced English 9 will be responsible for reading the following book over the summer:

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak
ISBN 978-0-375-84220-7

This title is available through Amazon, both as paperback and as e-texts; it can also be purchased through Barnes and Noble. The title should cost in the neighborhood of \$10-\$12 total, new, although pre-read copies are perfectly acceptable.

Rationale

Advanced English 9 is designed to be a survey course that will introduce students to a variety of American and world literature as well as basic functional writing styles. The course will be aggressively paced with the college-bound student in mind, with an emphasis on responding to literature through academic paper writing. As such, projects associated with the aforementioned novel will be due the third day of school.

Ohio's Common Core Standards will serve as the foundation for the paper to be written on the novel. Should you have the desire to learn more about Common Core Standards, I encourage you to visit <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy>.

Format

The format for the paper should remain consistent with MLA guidelines. Headers should be placed in the upper left-hand corner of the paper and adhere to the following format:

Last name, First name
Advanced English 9
Class period
Date

This is also the format we will use to head all papers during the school year.

In addition, the formats of the papers should adhere to the following guidelines:

Typed	Minimum 500 words
Double-spaced	Parenthetical citations where appropriate
One-inch default margins	Works Cited page
MLA format	
12-pt. font (Times New Roman or Garamond)	

Directions

Using the guidelines above, choose one of the following topics upon which to write. Papers may be submitted in class or online, but the due date remains the same.

--Discuss the theme of the individual vs. society, and how characters either conform to or rebel against societal expectations.

--How does the novel explore the idea of family? How is family defined at the beginning of the novel vs. the end?

--Discuss two or three ways the characters, Liesel and Max, change from the beginning of the novel to the end of the novel. Which people and events shaped and changed them throughout the course of the novel?

--Discuss the symbolism of Death as the omniscient narrator of the novel. What are Death's feelings for each victim? Discuss what is ugly and beautiful about Liesel, Rosa and Hans Hubermann, Max Vandenburg, Rudy Steiner, and Mrs. Hermann. Why would Death be haunted by humans?

--Some of us are born with an innate sense of the love of books and reading, while for some it grows and matures. Liesel took extraordinary measures to secure books, hence the title of the book. Discuss Liesel's act of book thievery; why does she steal books and what does she gain from her theft (for example, her friendship with the mayor's wife)? If you were a 'Book Thief', which book do you love enough to go to extraordinary lengths to secure?

--Many characters in this novel suffer from recurring nightmares. Choose two characters who suffer from nightmares and describe the visions they have. How do these recurring nightmares affect the way these characters interact with the world and each other?

--Both Liesel and Hans have an artistic talent that brings peace to stressful situations. First, describe both Liesel's and Hans's talents. Then, describe at least one situation when these characters use their artistic skill in the attempts to calm a crowd. What is the effect of their attempts?