

Summer 2017

Dear Eighth Graders,

This summer you'll be reading *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak, a moving, at times funny, and often thought-provoking story about a girl living in Germany during World War II. In addition to doing one of the writing assignments below, consider issues of justice and power that arise in the novel.

Please use **one** of the following prompts to respond to your summer reading. Remember to use **specific examples from the text to support your points**.

1. Choose one character from the novel and describe the aspects of that character that enable him or her to survive. What are some of the biggest challenges to this character's survival and how does he or she overcome them?
2. Just like people, characters grow and develop based on their experiences and their interaction with others. Identify one character from the text who changes over the course of the novel. Explain how the character changes, what causes the change, and perhaps how that change affects the other characters in the story.

Your response should be at least 2 typed, double-spaced pages in length. I will be evaluating your writing based on the following traits:

- Your hook or engaging opening
- The organization of ideas in the paper
- How clearly you express your ideas
- How well you support each of your points with evidence
- Your use of the standards of grammar and mechanics

All responses are due the first week of school.

If you have any questions, please call (446-3049) or e-mail me (pbentley@mphschool.org). I am so looking forward to meeting you all and hearing what you have to say about this book. Enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,
Ms. Bentley Hoke

p.s. If you read other books that you love this summer, let me know what you're reading either via email or when we return to school in September. I'm always excited to hear what my students like to read.