

INCOMING HONORS FRESHMAN REQUIREMENTS

Teacher to email for help: adkins@elyriacatholic.com

Assignment #1: You must read and annotate the entire book *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak. Students will need a yellow, green, pink, and blue highlighter to annotate their text. Annotate/identify the following literary devices in the text using the assigned highlighter colors: characterization (yellow), themes (green), symbolism (pink), and other literary devices (blue) such as conflict, setting, irony, flashback, foreshadowing, tone, mood, etc. **Highlight the literary devices.** Make comments in the margins of the text, ask questions in the margins of the text, and react to the text! Talk with the text! Write directly in the book. When reading your annotations, we should hear your voice on the pages reacting to the book. At the end of each section, **summarize the section with at least 5 bullet points of events** that happened in the text.

Assignment #2:

Showcase your critical thinking, reading comprehension, literary analysis, and writing skills. In this assignment, we are looking for thoughtful commentary, examples, and maturity as you type your responses to the questions below. **(6-12 sentences per question minimum, a solid paragraph each).** Be sure to answer the entire question.

1. Identify **3-5 themes** from the text. How do these five themes contribute to the overall message of the story?
2. Describe **2-3 examples of setting** in the story? Cite evidence to support. Was the writer effective in his ability to delineate a sense of setting? Why or why not?
3. Provide **2-3 examples** of and comment on the use of **irony** in the book. How does it enhance the story? How does it create a **mood**?
4. The story includes many references to **color**. Why is this so? What effect does it create? Does it enhance the story/**mood**? How so? Find and describe **3-5 examples** and discuss their meaning— or **what these colors might symbolize**. Cite evidence from the text to support.
5. What are some of the **other distinctive stylistic elements** that you found noteworthy? What did you find interesting about them? How did they affect your reading and appreciation of the novel?

***Honors freshmen will be held to a higher standard for their annotations and ability to comprehend the text material. Please come to class on the first day of school with annotated books and assignments completed, prepared to discuss the novel's literary elements. Students will earn a grade for annotations and responding to the critical thinking questions. Students will be assessed in a variety of ways including a Socratic Seminar and novel test.**