

**WORLD LITERATURE  
SUMMER READING 2018**

- William Shakespeare, *Macbeth*
- Markus Zusak, *The Book Thief*

**Assignments:**

1) For Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, the assignment is to **take notes on the play**. The notes may be as detailed as you like, but they must be **handwritten by the student**. No printed material or outside help is allowed (i.e., don't ask Mom for help). **The notes are due on the first day of class.**

2) During the first week of school, there will be a 100-point test on the summer reading; the test will include a writing portion. **You will be allowed to use your *Macbeth* notes during the test.** You may **not** use notes for the portion of the exam covering *The Book Thief*.

3) You will be asked to write **an essay of 500-750 words** on *The Book Thief* based on **one** of the prompts below. This essay will be completed **in class using Exemplify** during the first week of school. You will not be allowed to use notes for this essay.

**Essay Prompts for *The Book Thief***

**A.** Survivor syndrome is a psychological condition related to post-traumatic stress disorder. In this condition, a person who has survived a traumatic event like a natural disaster, epidemic, or war feels guilty to have survived when others did not. In *The Book Thief*, many characters suffer from survivor syndrome, but some manage to channel their guilt into positive action. Select three characters in *The Book Thief* who exhibit survivor's guilt, and, referring to specific scenes from the novel, discuss how they deal with their guilt.

**B.** Liesel Meminger is essentially an orphan, as her father is entirely absent and her mother plays only a small role in her life. In the course of the novel, the protagonist is forced to find new parent figures and build a new family. Selecting at least two characters, describe Liesel's new 'family' and, referring to specific scenes from the novel, discuss how her surrogate family members help her survive and grow.

**C.** In the last line of the novel, the narrator states, "I am haunted by humans." Select at least three specific scenes from the novel that lead the narrator to come to this conclusion, and discuss how other characters in the novel are similarly "haunted" by memories from the past.