

May 6, 2021

Dear English 9 AP Prep Students:

Welcome to the Tomah High School Advanced Placement English Program! As part of the English 9 AP Prep program, you are required to read **ONE** summer reading novel. If you do not want to do your summer reading, or think you can just sparknote it, reconsider your enrollment in this class. In the AP program we expect a high level of motivation, high quality work turned in (ON TIME). Please follow these steps and bring all completed work to your first day of class:

***The Book Thief***

1. **Read *The Book Thief*.** If you do not want a physical copy, here is the pdf:  
[https://westernhs.bcps.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_4204286/Image/Grade9GT--TheBookThiefMarkusZusak.pdf](https://westernhs.bcps.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_4204286/Image/Grade9GT--TheBookThiefMarkusZusak.pdf)
2. **Annotate.** Use post it notes to mark or keep a log of the major conflict(s) and how the conflict(s) is/are resolved. \*If you keep a log, be sure to note the event and include the page number.
3. **Submit the reader response sheet** on first day of school. Complete the required reader response sheet for the book. There are 10 questions. It will be collected online and graded. Electronic copies are online (see below). **\*\*You NEED TO** put your answers on a Google Document. If you have a computer, you **NEED TO** type your paragraphs on a Google Document. If you don't have a computer, write them on paper to type when you get your Chromebook back\*\*

**The annotations and reader response sheet will be graded the first day of school. Be prepared to discuss *The Book Thief* the first week of school. If you do not complete the annotations and reader response sheet by the first day of class, you will receive a zero on the assignment.**

Please feel free to contact me over the summer with any questions you have. I promise I will answer them! If you have questions, use my school email: [kyleguepfer@tomah.education](mailto:kyleguepfer@tomah.education) -ask questions! Better to get it right in the summer than to find out you did it wrong in the fall!

Sincerely,

Mr. Kyle Guepfer

## ***The Book Thief* Reader Response Sheet**

\*Please type your responses on a Google Document. If you don't have access to a device during the summer, handwrite your responses, and then type them when you are issued a Chromebook.\*

**1. It was about:**

(one paragraph-5 sentences-you can use the following outline for your summary)

- Somebody (the main character)
- Wanted (what did the main character want?)
- But (something happened to cause a problem)
- So (what did the main character do about it?)
- Then (then what happened?)

2. Who do you think the audience was for the book (Teenagers? Adults? Certain adults? Certain age groups? Americans?) How do you know this?
3. Describe one part of the book that you identified with/connected to. How did it relate to you/others/modern events? Write at least 3 sentences.
4. What do you think the author's purpose was in writing the book, AND why do you think that way? -Was it to teach people about something? Was it to give us their thoughts on something? Was it to help us understand something better?
5. What was the big idea or theme of the book? **This is not plot summary! A theme is not: this book was about how the character got into a fight.**
6. What is one sentence from the book that illustrates the theme you identified? How does that sentence reveal the theme?  
-Write the sentence with quotes around it and the author's last name and page number at the end. Example-"....." (Zusak \_\_\_\_).
7. What was 1 strength of the book? Why?
8. What was 1 weakness of the book (if any)? Why?
9. What is your overall evaluation of this book?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Excellent \_\_\_\_\_ Very Good \_\_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_\_\_ Poor
10. Why do you feel that way? Be specific and write at least **three complete sentences**! Think about the originality of the book, the characters, the action, the dialogue, the ending.