

# An Altered Book Project: Interpreting *The Book Thief*

## Your Mission

Following Max's example from Markus Zusak's *The Book Thief*, you will create an altered book. You will transform a book that you no longer need, altering it with your own images and words. Your altered book will reflect your reactions to and analysis of Markus Zusak's *The Book Thief*.

## Audience

Final products will be displayed for students, teachers, parents, and administrators to admire.

## Focusing Lens

- literary devices
- characterization
- bystander / upstander / perpetrator / victim triangle
- connections to your life
- connections to our world (current events, history, etc.)
- themes

## Starting Points

- What would you like to express to others about the text?
- What key point from the text would you like to call to other readers' attention?
- What did you learn from the text?
- What did you most admire about the text?
- What do you want to communicate about your experience of reading and analyzing the text?
- What most resonated with you about the text?



## Work to Build On

Good news: You are not starting this project from scratch. Many of the activities we've done in class were done in preparation for this project. Select your best sacred silent writing / writer's notebook entries, annotations, and class activities to polish and include in your altered book.

## Artist's Statement and Self-Evaluation

To enhance the viewer's experience of your altered book, write an artist's statement of a paragraph or two explaining your interpretive and artistic choices. Then, using the rubric, evaluate your altered book, giving your book a score of one to five. Write another paragraph justifying your self-evaluation score. Provide specific evidence of how you earned that score.

## Nitty Gritty Details

- your book should have at least 13 altered pages (following Max's example of *The Standover Man*)
- your book should have a meaningful title that reflects your interpretation of *The Book Thief*
- use any artistic materials and tools, high or low tech
- bring in a book to alter and materials to transform it
  - a used, hard-cover book with a spine that is sewn rather than glued will work best
- select a book size and shape that provides a good canvas for your artistic vision
- create a roughly equal amount of written and artistic interpretation

## Key Advice for Success

Exercise your creative and analytical muscles. Remember to show evidence of a deep understanding of Zusak's *The Book Thief*. Make your altered book unique, powerful, and memorable.

Sarah Morgan, Sharon Roy, and Cindy Stewart  
6th grade Kealing Magnet English