

## PART TEN, EPILOGUE

**Vocabulary:** Draw a line from each word on the left to its meaning on the right. Then use the numbered words to answer each of the questions below.

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|--------------|---|
| 1. overcast  | a. free from error                                      |
| 2. unkempt   | b. person or persons saddened by death of a loved one   |
| 3. threshold | c. determine by reasoning                               |
| 4. pensive   | d. overspread or covered with clouds                    |
| 5. accurate  | e. expressing thoughtfulness, usually marked by sadness |
| 6. bereaved  | f. firmly resolved or determined                        |
| 7. calculate | g. place of entering or beginning                       |
| 8. resolute  | h. untidy; messy  |

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1. If you observe that the sky is *overcast*, what items might you carry when you leave the house?  
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2. How might someone improve his *unkempt* appearance?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What worries might you have on the *threshold* of a new career?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Under what circumstances might someone seem *pensive*?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. If you want your bookkeeping to be absolutely *accurate*, what steps might you take?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. In your culture, how do the *bereaved* behave and dress?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How might someone *calculate* the time it would take to travel to their destination during rush hour?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Under what circumstances have you needed to be *resolute*?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Part Ten, Epilogue (cont.)

### Questions:

1. How did Liesel survive the air strike on Himmel Street? How did words once again save her life?
2. Why did Liesel attend each time Jews were marched through Molching?
3. How did Rudy save Liesel's life?
4. How did Ilse Hermann inspire Liesel to write her own story?
5. What did Liesel realize when she found Rudy's body after the bombing? How did she attempt to reach him?
6. Who took care of Liesel after she was orphaned for the second time?
7. Who was the unexpected survivor of the war?

### Questions for Discussion:

1. How did the author show the random quality of death during war time?
2. Do you think those who observed Liesel's whipping at the hands of the German soldiers should have offered their help?
3. Why do you think Liesel destroyed the book in Ilse Hermann's library?
4. Toward the end of the book, how had Liesel developed a love-hate relationship with words?
5. Whose death had the greatest effect upon you?
6. What were the qualities that Hans Hubermann possessed that made Death consider him one of the best of men?
7. Why do you suppose the narrator did not reveal what happened to Liesel in the years between her reunion with Max and the time of her death?

### Literary Devices:

- I. *Metaphor*—What two comparisons are being made in the following passage:

. . . I looked up and saw the tin-can planes. I watched their stomachs open and the bombs drop casually out.

Why are these apt comparisons?

**Part Ten, Epilogue (cont.)**

- II. *Dramatic Irony*—Dramatic irony, used more often in plays than in prose fiction, refers to a situation in which the audience or the reader is aware of something that a character does not know. Why is the first short, poetic episode about Michael Holtzapfel an example of dramatic irony? Who was unaware of the event at this point?

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- III. *Symbolism*—What Christian symbolism surrounded the figure of Max? In what ways was Max a Christ-like figure?

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**Literary Element: Narrative Technique**

There are various ways of manipulating time sequence when telling a story. Consider how flashback and flash forward have been used throughout the novel. In this section, the narrative shifts rapidly between past, present, and future. What effect does this have on the story?

**Writing Activity:**

Write the first three pages of a book about your life. Compose on the computer or in long-hand, but write quickly and do not edit until you finish the pages.