

PART SIX

Vocabulary: Word analogies are equations in which the first pair of words has the same relationship as the second set of words. For example: ASCENT is to DESCENT as TRAGEDY is to COMEDY. Both sets of words are opposites. Choose a word from the Word Box to complete each of the analogies below.

WORD BOX	
amble	paradox
delicate	retreat
immense	verge
interior	vigilance

1. ROOF is to EXTERIOR as KITCHEN is to _____.
2. WALK is to _____ as RACE is to SPRINT.
3. STURDY is to MARBLE as _____ is to CRYSTAL.
4. BRINK is to _____ as ATTEMPT is to TRY.
5. BALANCE is to TIGHTROPE WALKER as _____ is to GUARD.
6. _____ is to PUZZLE as FEAR is to TREPIDATION.
7. _____ is to MINUTE as FATIGUED is to RESTED.
8. VICTORIOUS is to ADVANCE as DEFEATED is to _____.

Questions:

1. How did "Death" characterize the year 1942?
2. Why was Christmas Day 1942 a special time for those who resided in Hans Hubermann's home?
3. Why did Max wait so long to reveal his illness to the family?
4. Why did Liesel blame herself for bringing snow into the basement in order to build the snowman?
5. What did Liesel hope to accomplish by bringing presents to the unconscious Max?
6. Why did Rosa Hubermann make an unplanned visit to Liesel's school?
7. Why did Liesel deliberately injure her leg while playing outdoors?
8. Why did Death say that the sky was "the color of Jews"? How did Death respond to the mass destruction of human lives?

Part Six (cont.)

Questions for Discussion:

1. Why do you think the author has “Death” narrate this tale, using a chatty, somewhat ironic tone? Do you think this adds or detracts from the book’s serious themes?
2. Why do you think Rosa Hubermann always wanted to appear tough and unemotional?
3. In what ways did this book offer an unusual characterization of “Death”?
4. Why do you think Liesel was able to enter the mayor’s house with ease and rob books each time?
5. How did Liesel’s dream about her brother and Max Vandenburg mirror the conflicts in her own life?

Literary Devices:

- I. *Simile*—What is being compared in the following passage?

. . . she [Liesel] stood on Munich Street and watched a single giant cloud come over the hills like a white monster. . . . The sun was eclipsed, and in its place, a white beast with a gray heart watched the town.

Why is this better than saying, “A cloud crossed the sky”?

- II. *Cliffhanger*—What is the cliffhanger at the end of page 324?
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- III. *Symbolism*—What was the symbolic importance of the last book Liesel obtained, *The Dream Carrier*?
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