

**PART EIGHT**

**Vocabulary:** Use the context to determine the meaning of the underlined word in each of the following sentences. Circle the letter of the definition you choose.

1. We asked everyone to wish us good luck before we began our \_\_\_\_\_ hike up the steep, rocky mountain.  
a. gradual                      b. perilous                      c. safe                      d. fortuitous
2. It is dangerous to return to the fire zone because the ashes are still \_\_\_\_\_ on the ground.  
a. leaping                      b. crackling                      c. smoldering                      d. dousing
3. I was so absorbed in the book I was reading that I was \_\_\_\_\_ to the storm that was raging outside my window.  
a. oblivious                      b. conscious                      c. listening                      d. engaging
4. Aware that I had not trained hard enough, I had strong feelings of \_\_\_\_\_ as I began the race.  
a. anxiety                      b. victory                      c. exhaustion                      d. relief
5. Knowing that I had been out of work for the past year, the doctor agreed to accept \_\_\_\_\_ payment for the treatment.  
a. anticipated                      b. dwindling                      c. total                      d. partial
6. The rubber patch was only a \_\_\_\_\_ solution for my tire problem.  
a. permanent                      b. temporary                      c. practical                      d. judicious
7. My students' \_\_\_\_\_ stares made it perfectly clear that they did not understand the lesson.  
a. accusatory                      b. inquisitive                      c. vacant                      d. disinterested
8. It is \_\_\_\_\_ to expect an untrained actor to play the part of Hamlet.  
a. dramatic                      b. fortunate                      c. solemn                      d. ludicrous

**Questions:**

1. Why did "the coat men" visit Alex Steiner's house?
2. Why was Rudy selected for examination by the Nazi medical authorities? What was ironic about his selection?
3. Why were the middle-aged Alex Steiner and Hans Hubermann drafted?
4. How did Hans Hubermann's job in the German army suit him?
5. Why did Liesel and Rudy go to observe the third march of the Jews to Dachau?
6. Why did Liesel take Rudy to his father's abandoned shop on Christmas night?

## Part Eight (cont.)

### Questions for Discussion:

1. What do you suppose transformed Rudy Steiner from an apple thief into a bread giver?
2. Why do you think Hans Hubermann's letters home were so brief?
3. Why do you think the author showed German soldiers, such as Hans Hubermann, performing civilian tasks instead of being shown on a battlefield? And why did he focus on ordinary German civilians during wartime?
4. What do you think Max's book revealed about the power of words? How might words represent both beauty and evil? What message do you think the story imparted?
5. Why do you think Liesel did not seize the opportunity to kiss Rudy inside his father's shop on Christmas night?

### Literary Devices:

- I. *Personification*—What is being personified in the following passage?

Even when they made it around the corner, away from the center of the wreckage, the haze of the collapsed building attempted to follow. It was white and warm, and it crept behind them.

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Why is it better than saying, "smoke from the collapsed buildings filled the air"?

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- II. *Allegory*—An allegory is a work in which characters, events, or settings symbolize, or represent, something else. Max Vandenburg's illustrated story for Liesel is allegorical because the events and actions are symbolic and not intended to be taken literally. For instance:

Soon, the demand for the lovely ugly words and symbols increased to such a point that the forests grew. Many people were needed to maintain them. Some were employed to climb the trees and throw the words down to those below. They were then fed directly into the remainder of the Fuhrer's people, not to mention those who came back for more.

How do the words and symbols that sprout from these trees relate to the political situation in Hitler's Germany?

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- III. *Symbolism*—What did Rudy's lined-up dominoes, described at the beginning of Part Eight, symbolize?
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### Writing Activity:

Write a paragraph in which you consider the saying "No good deed goes unpunished." How does this saying relate to this section of *The Book Thief*?

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