

## PART NINE

**Vocabulary:** Use the context to figure out the meaning of the underlined word in each of the following sentences. Then compare your answer with a dictionary definition.

1. It was difficult to keep the present a surprise because it protruded from his front pocket.

Your definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

2. To those who have never suffered from poison ivy, the bright green three-leaved plant seems innocuous enough.

Your definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

3. Even if you are in a terrible mood, please attempt a semblance of civility.

Your definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

4. The angry parent delivered a reprimand to her son who had worried her by staying out well past his curfew.

Your definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

5. The engineer will blow the whistle three consecutive times as the train approaches the station.

Your definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

### Questions:

1. How did Ilse Hermann prepare for Liesel's next visit?
2. What disturbing news did Michael Holtzapfel bring to Himmel Street? Why did this news devastate Rosa Hubermann as well as his own mother?
3. What finally laid the ghost of Liesel's brother to rest?
4. Why did Hans Hubermann change seats on the military vehicle?
5. Why was Hans Hubermann allowed to return home?

## Part Nine (cont.)

### Questions for Discussion:

1. Do you think Ilse Hermann was a Nazi sympathizer?
2. Why do you suppose Liesel didn't discuss the mayor's wife with Rudy?
3. Why do you think the author evoked sympathy for wounded German soldiers?
4. Why do you think Michael Holtzapfel killed himself?
5. Why do you think Rudy's attitude toward thievery changed?
6. What did Death mean when he commented about Liesel as she observed the dying survivor of the plane crash, "She did not back away or try to fight me, but I know that something told the girl I was there . . . she knew me and she looked me in my face and she did not look away . . . we both moved on"?
7. Do you think that Rudy and Liesel tried to aid the downed "enemy" pilot?

### Social Studies Connection:

Do some research to learn about the siege of Leningrad during World War II. Discover why the siege had a devastating effect upon the German civilian population.

### Literary Devices:

- I. *Metaphor*—What is being compared in the following passages that described Michael Holtzapfel's wound?

A bandaged hand fell out of his coat sleeve and cherries of blood were seeping through the wrapping . . . the cherries of blood had grown into plums.

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Why is it better than just saying that "his hand bled"?

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- II. *Irony*—What was ironic about the death of Reinhold Zucker?
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### Literary Element: Characterization

How would you characterize Death as he appears in this novel? Select five adjectives that epitomize this character and give an example of his commentary that illustrates each character trait.

### Writing Activity

Use the elements of character that you selected in the prior activity to write a character sketch of Death as he appears in this novel.