

## PARTS TWO, THREE

**Vocabulary:** Synonyms are words with similar meanings. Draw a line from each word in column A to its synonym in column B. Then use the words in column A to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

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|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. flippant     | a. thoughtful    |
| 2. culminate    | b. disturbance   |
| 3. prolific     | c. disrespectful |
| 4. agitation    | d. conclude      |
| 5. animosity    | e. culprit       |
| 6. transgressor | f. enmity        |
| 7. benign       | g. abundant      |
| 8. pensive      | h. good          |

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- As the victim of an automobile accident looked over the people on the police lineup, he hoped the \_\_\_\_\_ would have a guilty expression on his face.
  - Although I was expecting the worst, I had such a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ visit with my aunt that she invited me back again.
  - My expression changed from \_\_\_\_\_ to jubilant as I realized the letter from a stranger announced that I had inherited a great deal of money.
  - The tour will \_\_\_\_\_ in a visit to the Grand Canyon, and then we will return home.
  - Her \_\_\_\_\_ attitude was inappropriate to the serious circumstances.
  - The artist was so \_\_\_\_\_ that he ran out of room to store his paintings.
  - The suspect's \_\_\_\_\_ became obvious when his body trembled as the police questioned him.
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ between the two neighboring nations finally erupted in warfare.

## Parts Two, Three (cont.)

### Questions:

1. How did Hans Hubermann's Christmas gift to Liesel reveal the depth of his feelings for her?
2. How did the Hubermann's financial situation reflect the general state of Germany's economy in the 1930s?
3. Why did Mama Hubermann decide to risk sending Liesel on the important business of laundry pickup and delivery?
4. Why did the Hubermanns avoid any discussion of Liesel's mother in front of her daughter?
5. In what important respect did Hans Junior differ from his father?
6. Why did Hans Junior accuse his father of cowardice? What was the "mistake" Papa Hubermann had committed?
7. Why did the people of Molching hold a bonfire? What shocking realization met Liesel when she listened to the speaker at the bonfire?
8. Why did Papa Hubermann slap Liesel?
9. Why did Papa Hubermann buy a copy of Hitler's *Mein Kampf*?
10. Why did Liesel avoid the mayor's house for some time? And then, why did she change radically and look forward to delivering laundry to the mayor's house?
11. Why did Max Vandenburg read a copy of *Mein Kampf* on the train?

### Questions for Discussion:

1. Do you think Liesel deserved to be punished for taking money to mail letters to her mother? Was Rosa justified in meting out such a harsh punishment?
2. Do you think there was some way that Hans could have made peace with his son? Why didn't he?
3. In what ways might Hans Hubermann have been considered a hero and not a coward as he had been accused by his son?
4. What silent understanding do you think passed between Liesel and the mayor's wife? Why do you suppose Ilse Hermann allowed Liesel to browse through her library?
5. Do you think that the thievery practiced by Rudy, Liesel, and the other children was justified?
6. What do you think is the relationship between Max and Hans Hubermann?
7. How is each of Liesel's book titles an ironic comment on the times? What is ironic about the title of Max Vandenburg's book?

## Parts Two, Three (cont.)

### Literary Devices:

- I. *Symbolism*—A symbol in literature is a person, object, or event that stands for an idea or a set of ideas. What does the book *The Grave Digger's Handbook* symbolize?

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What does the conclusion of reading the book symbolize?

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- II. *Verbal irony*—Verbal irony is a figure of speech in which the speaker says one thing, but intends something quite different. The device of verbal irony may include sarcasm, overstatement, and understatement. For instance, the narrator says that World War II was the result of the Germans' love of burning things. What tells you that this statement should not be taken literally, at face value?

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- III. *Flashback* and *Flash Forward*—A writer can play with time sequence to achieve particular effects. A flashback is a scene which takes the narrative back to a time before the current point in the plot. A flash forward reveals what will happen at some future point in the story. What instances of flashback and flash forward can you find in this section of *The Book Thief*? What do you learn from these interruptions to the normal sequence of the plot?

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- IV. *Cliffhanger*—A cliffhanger is a device borrowed from silent serialized films in which an episode would end abruptly at a moment of heightened tension or suspense. In a book it usually appears at the end of a chapter to encourage the reader to continue on in the book. What is the cliffhanger at the end of Part Three?

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### Writing Activity:

Imagine that you are Hans or Rosa Hubermann and write a journal entry describing your feelings about Liesel and life in Nazi Germany.