**How does the author’s craft impact the reader’s understanding of the text?**

The author uses metaphors throughout his writing in order to first of all give the reader a very clear picture of the characters and second, to allow the reader to understand what motivated people during this time period. As Liesel is getting accustomed to living with the Hubermann’s, she realizes that one of the neighbors daily spits on their door. It becomes Liesel’s responsibility to clean this spit off each night. On one such night, the narrator expresses that, “when a woman with an iron first tells you to get out there and clean spit off the door, you do it. Especially when the iron’s hot” (Zusak 44). In this quote, the narrator uses a metaphor comparing Rosa Hubermann to a hot iron. This comparison shows how intimidating Rosa is, and also clearly depicts her volatile temperament. In addition to helping paint a clear picture of Rosa, this quote also gives the reader insight into the larger motivations behind many of the acts during World War II. Just as Liesel submitted out of her fear of Rosa, many other individuals during this time period blindly followed commands out of fear of the consequences.