

Markus Zusak

By: Jack Merrill

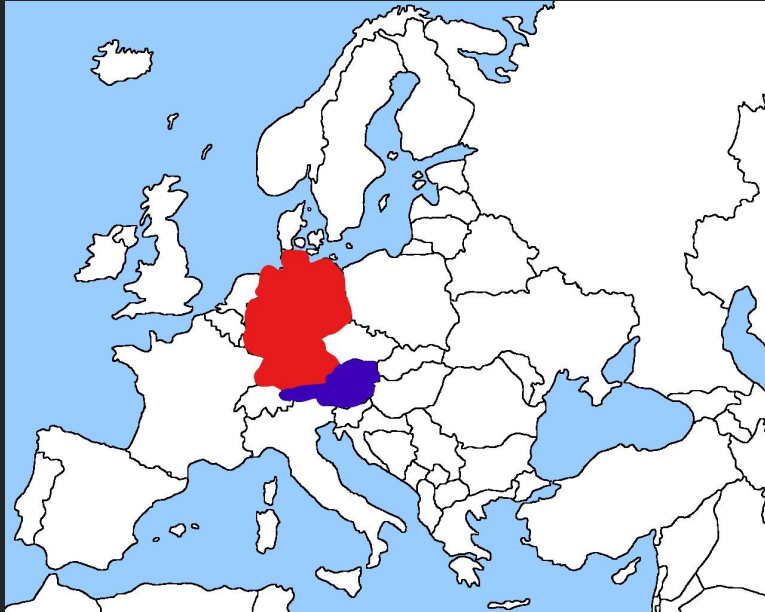


Background

- Markus was born in Sydney, Australia in 1975
- He is the youngest of four children
- He pursued a teaching degree at the University of Sydney
- Before becoming an author, Markus spent time working as a janitor, house painter, and high school English teacher

Is he German?

Yes, Zusak's mother has a German background and his father has an Austrian background. Both of his parents are immigrants from their native countries.

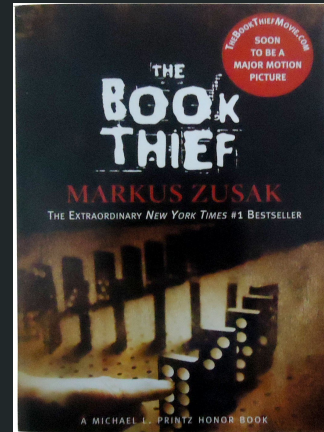


Red = Germany

Blue = Austria

Is his background evident in *The Book Thief*?

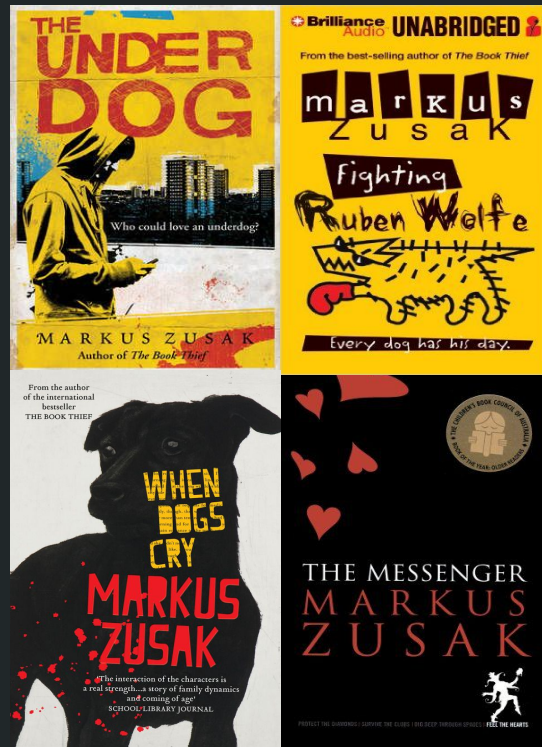
Zusak's background is very apparent in the origin of his best seller. The inspiration came from his parents and the first-hand knowledge they provided Markus on WWII. In the book, he recreated specific stories that his parents had told him as a child. One of these stories depicted his mother's experience as she watched Jews being marched out of her hometown on their way to Dachau.



Other Books

Zusak has written four other books in his writing career.

1. *The Underdog* (1999)
2. *Fighting Ruben Wolfe* (2001)
3. *When Dogs Cry* (2002)
4. *The Messenger* (2002)



Other Info on Markus Zusak

- Just like his father did for work in real life, in *The Book Thief*, Markus made his character, Hans Hubermann, a house painter too.
- He started writing as a teenager.
- The novels *The Old Man and the Sea* and *What's Eating Gilbert Grape* sparked his passion for literature.

Citations

"Markus Zusak Biography | List of Works, Study Guides & Essays." GradeSaver. GradeSaver LLC, n.d. Web. 06 Feb. 2017.

"Markus Zusak Biography." Chicago Public Library. Chicago Public Library, n.d. Web. 06 Feb. 2017.