

# The Book Thief Pre-Reading Research Project

Honors English 1 - Period D

Directions: You will be assigned one topic to research and share with the class in the form of a Powerpoint, Google Slideshow, or Prezi.

- Obviously, some of the topics will contain more information to impart than others. Do not worry that if your presentation is shorter than your classmates' you will get a lower grade. I'm looking for quality, not quantity.
- If, however, you have a topic that has much information from which you can pull, DO NOT SHORTCHANGE US!
- Be sure to include a list of resources used in MLA format.
  - Internet Resource in MLA Format:
  - Author. "Article Title." *Website*. Date of Article. Web. Date you looked at it.

You will be given class time to do research. Please use this wisely!

## TOPICS:

1. Communists and Aryans
  - a. What happened to Communists in Nazi Germany?
  - b. Were Communists sent to concentration camps?
  - c. What does the word Aryan mean?
  - d. Who qualified as Aryan?
  - e. Were all Germans automatically considered to be Aryan?
  - f. What was the origin of this word?
  - g. What other countries were considered Aryan?
2. Hitler Youth
  - a. When was it established?
  - b. What were the ages of the members?
  - c. What did they do at meetings?
  - d. Anything other information you find that you and your classmates would find interesting?
  - e. Pictures?
  - f. Include the BDM (and explain what it is!)
3. Jesse Owens & Kristallnacht
  - a. Who was he?
  - b. How did Hitler treat him?
  - c. What happened to him after the 1936 Olympics?
  - d. When did Kristallnacht event occur?
  - e. What was it?

4. Brief History of Germany after WWI
  - a. Why did so many Germans hate the Jews?
  - b. What was the economy of Germany like after World War I?
5. History of Hitler
  - a. When did he come to power?
  - b. How was he able to get an entire nation to follow him?
  - c. Why was he so anti-Semitic (and what does that word mean?)
6. *Mein Kampf*
  - a. When was it written?
  - b. Who wrote it?
  - c. What is it about?
  - d. How long is it?
  - e. Why is it so significant?
7. Dachau
  - a. What kind of camp was it?
  - b. How far from Munich was it located?
  - c. Pictures?
  - d. How many people were exterminated there?
8. Markus Zusak
  - a. Tell us about his background.
  - b. Is he German?
  - c. Is his background evident in *The Book Thief*?
  - d. What else has he written?
  - e. DO NOT JUST GO TO THE BACK OF THE BOOK FOR THIS! We are all capable of doing that ourselves. Find something new!

You will be graded based on the following criteria:

- Visual Presentation
  - Your presentation should demonstrate creativity, originality, and significant effort
  - Slides should not contain large sections of text
- Content
  - Presentation answers all questions regarding the selected topic
  - All content is factual and cited appropriately
- Oral Presentation
  - Good volume, proper pacing, makes eye contact with the audience
  - Does not read directly from the slides
- Spelling and Grammar
  - Presentation should have no misspellings or grammatical errors

Each category will be given a numerical grade from 1 - 4 (1 = unacceptable; 4 = exemplary).