**The Book Thief:** Final Seminar Questions

* People who survive often suffer from “survivor’s guilt.” Do you think such guilt is justified? Why or why not? What characters in the novel deal with this problem? Do you think Liesel experienced guilt? Why or why not?
* Liesel Meminger lived to be an old woman. Death says that he would like to tell the book thief about beauty and brutality, but those are things that she had lived. How does her life represent beauty in the wake of brutality?
* Discuss Zusak’s use of Death as a narrator for the story? How does he challenge traditional views of death? How does death provide ironic humor in the novel? Why is the choice of Death as narrator effective in this particular novel? Is Death as evil as we tend to believe it to be?
* Do you think words are as powerful today as they were in the past?
* This story is FULL of figurative language and imagery. It is a LIVING story, though it is told by Death (isn’t that ironic?). Find what you believe is the most powerful and moving example of imagery, and be prepared to discuss them and their effect.
* Which are more powerful - which have the greater effect on the characters: internal or external conflicts. Support your answer.

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