# The Book Thief: Motif Essay

A motif is a recurring image, word, object, or phrase that acts as a larger symbol in a literary work. A motif essay explains the meaning behind a selected motif and how the author uses it to convey a specific theme throughout the work. In this essay, you will explore and analyze one motif of your choosing and how it develops a specific message.

**Possible motifs include**: Books, written language (letters, words, stories), oral language (storytelling), trees, colors (choose one), music, the accordion, stealing, fighting/fights or acts of violence, luck, darkness, gambling, the sky.

### Writing Process:

- 1. Thesis Development
  - a. Choose one motif to explore and identify it as a symbol. Create a clear thesis statement which states the larger theme and meaning your motif represents throughout the novel.
    - i. Central Question: What is the overall purpose of the motif as a symbol?
    - ii. Consider the emotions, ideas, beliefs, values, or even morals which the motif symbolizes. Consider how it is connected to humanity and WWII Germany.

#### 2. Thesis Pitch

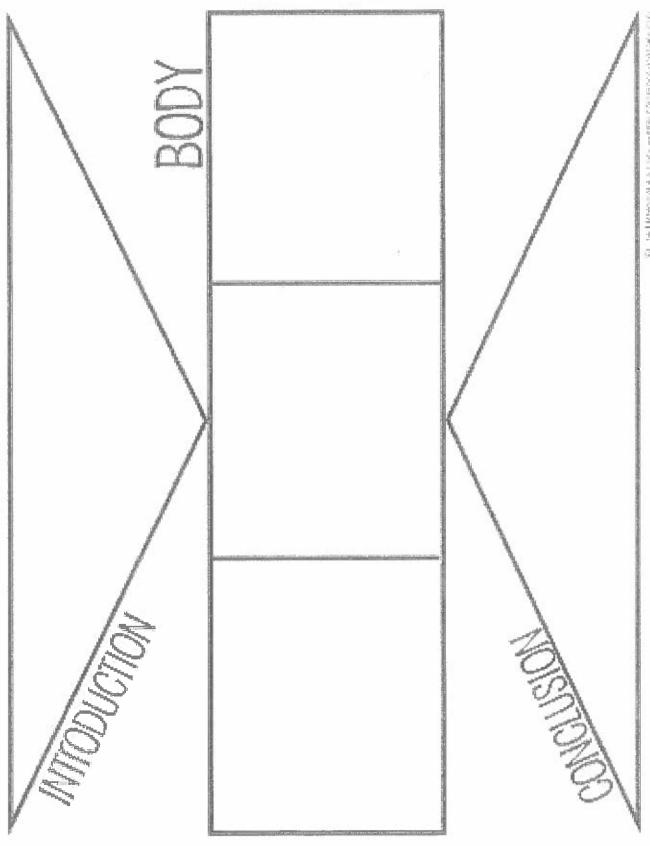
a. You will share your thesis statement with your classmates, including at least three examples of when the motif is used as a meaningful symbol within the text.

### 3. Outline

- a. Create a complete outline for your paper that includes the following pieces of information:
  - i. Hook
  - ii. Thesis statement
  - iii. Three pieces of textual evidence (if not MORE!)
  - iv. Closing statement (overall significance, historical connection, or thematic relevance)

## 4. Rough Draft

- a. Intro
- b. Three Body Paragraphs with textual evidence
- c. Conclusion



Essay Prewriting