

## 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 W/WII 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
5. Peer Edits
6. Final Draft
  - a. DUE: \_\_\_\_\_

# Essay Prewriting

|              |      |  |  |            |
|--------------|------|--|--|------------|
| INTRODUCTION | BODY |  |  | CONCLUSION |
|              |      |  |  |            |
|              |      |  |  |            |