

Rolling Hills Country Day School

Eighth Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to the eighth grade! We believe that books can open new worlds and provide novel experiences to readers. Reading can help develop one's imagination and increase one's knowledge while expanding vocabulary as well as increasing composition skills. **All eighth grade students are required to read *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck and *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak. For *The Book Thief*, students will complete the written assignment outlined below. This assignment will be graded and is due on the first day of class.** While there is no written assignment for *Of Mice and Men*, students will take a quiz and complete several in-class assignments on the novel. Students will also be expected to be able to compare and contrast the journeys of the protagonists. We look forward to working with you.

The Book Thief Written Assignment

Before you begin reading, please peruse the assignment below so that you know what you need to focus on as you read. In your own book, we recommend that you highlight or underline certain words or phrases that are important and take notes in the margins. Please analyze the following in **complete sentences. Do not write an essay, but simply type the question and respond with your answer and related supporting details.** Make your answers short and specific. Provide textual evidence with page numbers if needed.

1. How does the author, Markus Zusak, use foreshadowing to pull the reader into the story? Give an example from the book.
2. Describe Liesel's friendship with Rudy. How did it change and grow throughout the novel?
3. Why does Zusak make Death the narrator? How does Death see things a human narrator could not?
4. Is Hans Huberman a courageous man? How does he show courage? How does he show lack of courage?
5. Name some acts of resistance in the novel. When is the resistance effective? When is it not? Give examples from the novel.
6. Would you recommend this book? Why or why not?