Book Thief Comprehension Questions
Name _____________________ - ____

Answer on a separate sheet of paper. The numbers at the end are approximate page numbers where you will find the answer.

Prologue & Part One
1. What does Death identify as his "saving grace"? 4
2. What appears to be the situation described in the chapter "Beside the Railway Line"? 7
3. Describe the setting the second time Death sees the book thief. 10
4. Why does Death describe the third time he sees the book thief as red? 12
5. What does Liesel pick up from her brother's gravesite? 24
6. How does Liesel respond when she is brought to her foster family, the Hubermanns? 28
7. What makes Liesel's eyes "dangerous"? 31
8. What word does Liesel associate with the memory of her father? 31
9. What does Hans do in the mornings to comfort and entertain Liesel? 37
10. Why is school in Molching painful for Liesel at first? 39
11. For which of her washing customers does Rosa have the greatest disdain? Why? 42
12. What does Frau Holtzapfel do every time she passes by the Hubermanns' door? 44
13. Who is Tommy Muller and who is Pfiffikus? 46
14. What must any customer of Frau Diller do to get served? 49
15. What astonishing thing does Rudy do at the Hubert Oval? 58
16. Who is Mr. Kaufmann? 60
17. When they run out of sandpaper, how do Liesel and Hans write their words and pictures? 72
18. What happens when Liesel stands before the class to read? 77
19. What happens when Liesel puts the book under her shirt? 122

Part Two
20. How did Hans pay for the books he bought Liesel for Christmas? 89
21. Why does Rosa decide to send out Liesel to deal with her customers? 92
22. To whom does Liesel write for her school letter-writing assignment? 95
23. How does Liesel pay for the postage of the letters she has written? 98
24. What is the main source of tension between Hans Jr. and his father? 104
25. What does the Nazi speaking at the bonfire say that greatly disturbs Liesel? 110
26. Whom does Liesel help at the bonfire? 112
27. What does Hans do when Liesel says she hates Hitler? 115-116
28. What happens when Liesel puts the book under her shirt? 122

Part Three
29. What does Hans buy at the Nazi Party office? 128
30. Why is Liesel afraid to pick up wash from the mayor's wife? 129
31. What wondrous thing does the mayor's wife show Liesel? 134
32. What items does the man bring to the Jew hidden in the basement? 140-141
33. What does the reader learn about the mayor's wife that explains her odd behavior? 145
34. What do Liesel and Rudy do to combat their hunger? 152
35. What do Liesel and Rudy buy and share at Frau Diller's? 155
36. What is ironic about the way Max avoids detection on the train? 160
37. What is the English translation of Mein Kampf? 157
38. What does Arthur Berg want Rudy and Liesel to do with Otto Sturm's food basket? 164
39. What happens when the gang steals from the potato farmer? 165

Part Four
40. What assignment was Hans Hubermann given the morning the rest of his company went into battle? 178
41. What promise did Hans make to Erik Vandenburg's widow? 179
42. Why did Hans start losing painting customers? 181
43. What does Hans do for Joel Kleinmann, his "second" mistake? 181
44. How did Max and Walter Kugler's friendship develop? 191
45. What does Max's mother hand him before he escapes with Walter? 193-194
46. What threats does Hans make to instill in Liesel the importance of keeping Max secret? 203
47. What similarities between herself and Max does Liesel recognize right away? 206
48. What does Max believe are the two most pitiful words he can say? 208
49. What price does Max pay for wanting to live? 208
50. What changes does Liesel notice in Rosa after the arrival of Max? 211
51. What does the family tell Trudy about Max when she comes to visit at Christmas? 215-216
52. To what does Liesel liken Max's freshly-washed hair? 216
53. What do Max and Liesel share that brings a "small breakthrough" in their relationship? 220
54. What does Liesel give Max on her birthday? How does this affect him? 222
55. On what does Max compose his story, The Standover Man? 223
56. "She saw an imaginary framed photo seep into the wall—a quiet-smiled secret" (p. 238)." What is this a “photo” of? 236, 222

Part Five
57. What reason does Death give for revealing the ending of the story? 243
58. What does Liesel imagine herself telling the mayor's wife one day as she reads in the library? 246
59. What does Max paint on the basement wall? 249
60. What does Max daydream about to pass the time in the basement? 251
61. Why does the mayor stop using Rosa's laundry service? 261
62. Whom does Liesel see while she is yelling at the mayor's wife? 263
63. What does Rudy do to earn his extra laps and drills from Franz Deutscher? 269
64. What sets Viktor Chemmel apart from the other members of the fruit-stealing gang? 273, 276
65. What does Liesel steal from the mayor's house? 287, 289
66. What do Liesel and Rudy leave behind at the mayor's house? 289
67. Why isn't Rudy arrested for stealing the potato? 295
68. What question does Rudy purposely answer incorrectly? 296
69. What final humiliation does Franz put Rudy through? 298
70. How is Rudy's refusal to attend Hitler Youth finally resolved? 299
71. What does Viktor Chemmel do to get his revenge on Rudy? 301-302

Part Six
1. Whom does Death say he looks like? 307
2. What do Liesel, Max, and the Hubermanns make in the basement at Christmas? 311
3. What does Death say happened when he came for Max on Himmel Street that winter? 317
4. What is the first "gift" Liesel brings to Max while he is sick? 320