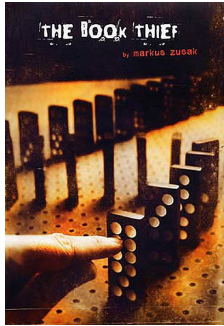


The Book Thief



The Book Thief is a 2006 best-selling novel by Markus Zusak, and a 2007 Michael L. Printz Award Honor Book. Although American publisher Knopf has marketed the 552 page book set in Nazi Germany as a young-adult novel, it was originally intended and published in Zusak's native Australia specifically for adults.

The Book Thief is set in Nazi Germany. Beginning in 1939, it focuses on a German girl, Liesel, who is sent by her mother to live with foster parents in a small town near Munich. As Liesel learns to cope with her new environment, all the pains she has endured, and the extreme unhappiness of pre-war and wartime Germany, she yearns to escape via reading. Her foster father Hans helps her learn to read, and Liesel finds books here and there – in a snowy graveyard, in a Nazi book-burning, and inside the local mayor's library. While the toll of WWII, Allied bombing, and Nazi brutality increases, Liesel's world starts to crumble, but words and reading sustain her.

Synopsis available at
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Book_Thief

Author Info



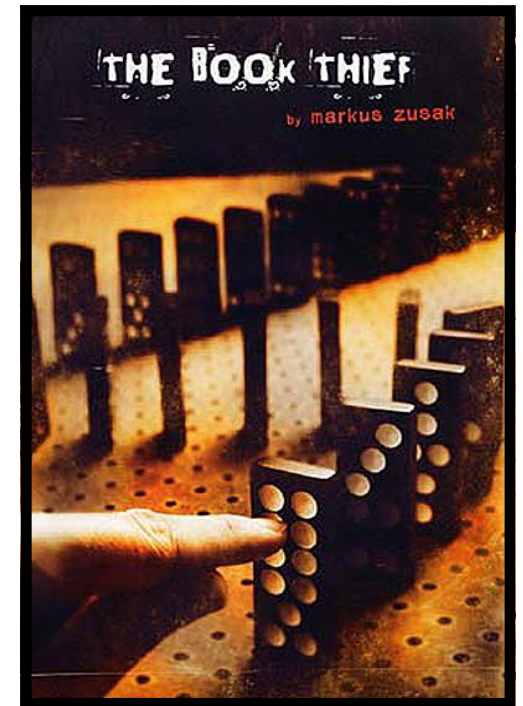
Australian author Markus Zusak grew up hearing stories about Nazi Germany, about the bombing of Munich and about Jews being marched through his mother's small, German town. He always knew it was a story he wanted to tell.

"We have these images of the straight-marching lines of boys and the 'Heil Hitlers' and this idea that everyone in Germany was in it together. But there still were rebellious children and people who didn't follow the rules and people who hid Jews and other people in their houses. So there's another side to Nazi Germany," said Zusak in an interview with *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

At the age of 32, Zusak has already asserted himself as one of today's most innovative and poetic novelists. With the publication of *The Book Thief*, he is now being dubbed a 'literary phenomenon' by Australian and U.S. critics. Zusak is the award-winning author of four previous books for young adults: *The Underdog*, *Fighting Ruben Wolfe*, *Getting the Girl*, and *I Am the Messenger*, recipient of a 2006 Printz Honor for excellence in young adult literature. He lives in Sydney.

Bio available on www.randomhouse.com

Read Around Allendale
2009



The Book Thief
Sept. 21– Dec. 12

Read Around Allendale

Thank you for participating in our effort to get the Allendale community “on the same page”. Through this program we hope to promote a culture of reading and discussion by bringing the community together around the same book.

Reading provokes us to think about ourselves and beyond ourselves and is truly a common bond that can bring a community together. And whether or not you enjoy reading this book, we hope you find the themes thought-provoking and the opportunity for discussion a worthwhile experience.

Several copies of the book are available in various formats at the library or can be ordered from other libraries. There will also be several book discussion meetings focused on this book throughout the community and led by different leaders throughout the community. We hope you will take the time to attend one and share your views.

**A special thank you to the Allendale
Community Foundation for funding
Read Around Allendale!**

Book Discussion Meetings & Special Programs

Sept. 29 @ 7PM: Allendale Library

Come to the library for a book discussion meeting about Zusak’s *The Book Thief*. Refreshments will be provided. This meeting will be led by Library Director Rob Bristow.

Oct. 3 @ 1PM: Altered Books Workshop

The Book Thief explores the power of books and reading, with one character creating a new book from another book. Learn how to make your own altered books in this free program. Limited to 25 participants ages 12 & up. Please sign up in advance!

Oct. 20 @ 4PM: Oakwood School

Come to the new 4th-5th grade building for a book discussion meeting about Zusak’s *The Book Thief*. Refreshments will be provided. This meeting will be led by Allendale Public Schools Superintendent Dan Jonker.

Oct. 27 @ 2PM: Stonebridge Apartments

Stop by the Stonebridge Apartments for a book discussion meeting about Zusak’s *The Book Thief*. Refreshments will be provided. This meeting will be led by Barb Boelens.

Nov. 3 @ 4:30PM: Allendale Library

Kids are invited to come to the library for a book discussion meeting about Zusak’s *The Book Thief*. Refreshments will be provided. This meeting will be led by Librarian Joy Bos.

Nov. 4 @ 10:30AM: Book Talk with Historian Gary Stark

Much of *The Book Thief* focuses on literary censorship in WWII Germany. Stop by the library for a discussion with GVSU professor and author of *Banned in Berlin*.

Nov. 10 @ 11AM: Grand Coney

Stop by The Grand Coney for a book discussion of *The Book Thief* (and, of course, some food). This meeting will be led by Library Director Rob Bristow.

Nov. 17 @ 2PM: Bridges Café (Engine House #5)

Stop by Bridges Café for a book discussion of *The Book Thief* (and, of course, some food). This meeting will be led by Allendale Township Community Promotions Director Kathy Hanes.

Dec. 10 @ 7PM: Allendale Library

Come to the library for a book discussion meeting about Zusak’s *The Book Thief*. Refreshments will be provided. This meeting will be led by Library Director Rob Bristow.

**Interested in having your own book
discussion group centered around
The Book Thief?**

**Let us know and we will
provide the books.**

