Final Exam Study Guide Questions

The Book Thief

Part Six: The Dream Carrier
“Death’s Diary: 1942”
1. What frustrates Death about his appearance? Why is he overwhelmed? Why does he refer to the years 79 & 1346? What is his opinion of war?
2. How does Death find relief from the strain of his job?

“The Snowman”
1. What is contradictory about Liesel considering this the best Christmas ever?
2. Explain the situation in February about Max. Who takes charge? Why does Liesel feel guilty?
3. Explain the paradox in the final line of the chapter.

“Thirteen Present”
1. Why is it significant that Death visits Max?
2. How does Liesel spend her time with Max? List the gifts that Liesel brings Max and comment on her selections.
3. What promise does Rosa make to Liesel? Analyze Rosa’s smile.

“Fresh Air, and Old Nightmare, and What to DO with a Jewish Corpse”
1. What desire does Liesel express to Rudy? How does he respond & what is the outcome of the venture? What does Death suggest about the open window?
2. If Max dies Hans & Rosa are worried ___________________. How does Liesel put an end to that conversation?
3. Interpret the dream Liesel has of Max replacing her brother?
4. Mama comes to Liesel’s class because ____________
5. What fear does Max admit to Liesel? Why might he fear such a thing, and how does Liesel ease his fear?
6. As Max recovers, Liesel’s world is returning to normal; how is that contrasting with the outside world?
7. Death states “Yes, the boss was at my shoulder. Get it done. Get it done.” Who is the boss? Explain.

“Death’s Diary: Cologne”
1. What event is described in this chapter?
2. The children collect ______________ as Death collects ____________________. What could this symbolize?

“The Visitor”
1. Who is the “visitor,” and what implications could this have for the family?
2. The purpose of Liesel’s clever stunt during the soccer game is _______________.
3. Explain the outcome of the episode. In what condition do the Hubermanns find Max? What do you believe Max was going to do with the scissors?

“The Schmunzeler”
1. Who is the second visitor?
2. How does Liesel classify her condition after the day’s events?

“Death’s Diary: The Parisians”
1. Death claims “the sky was the color of Jews.” What color do you suppose that would be? Why might Death classify the sky this way?
2. Describe Death’s inner conflict & your reaction to it.

Part Seven: The Complete Duden Dictionary and Thesaurus
“Champagne and Accordion”
1. In 1942, what is the inevitable event the people of Molching are waiting for? How does this benefit Hans?
2. What does Liesel find most interesting about painting? Characterize Hans based on Liesel’s explanation of these experiences. How does she perceive him?
3. Explain what Liesel experiences in one of the customer’s home. What is Hans explanation?
4. Liesel writes about her life and vows never to drink champagne again, why?
5. What does Death foreshadow? How do you explain the author’s use of the simile “Hard times were coming. Like a parade.”?

“The Trilogy”
1. To what three installments does the chapter title refer?
2. How does Rudy spend his time while Liesel is working with Hans? What is his goal?
3. Summarize Rudy’s success at the festival. How does Liesel perform?
4. How does Rudy respond when Liesel asks why he would intentionally disqualify himself from the race? Why do you think he did it?
5. What does Rudy do with his medals?
6. What does Liesel do after she finishes the Dream Carrier?
7. Why does Rudy take Liesel to the mayor’s house? Explain why Liesel stops & looks back at the mayor’s house.
8. Rudy finds ___________________________ in the book. How does Liesel respond?
9. Liesel consider herself a criminal because ___________________________

“The Sound of Sirens”
1. What dilemma confronts the Hubermanns’ in regards to air raids?
2. Identify the people who take shelter in the Fielder’s basement. Which does Liesel determine to be the most fearful?
3. How does Death feel about the individuals in the shelter? Agree or disagree.
4. Explain “For those people life was still achievable.”
5. What does Max admit to the family? How long has it been since Max viewed the outside?

“The Sky Stealer”
1. How does the first raid compare to the second?
2. What superstition does Hans practice?
3. How does Liesel cope with being in the shelter the 2nd time? What reaction does she receive from the others?
4. Do the families return home right after the raid is over? Explain the effect of the raid on Himmel Street.
5. Explain the impact of Rosa’s retelling of Liesel’s actions in the shelter on Max.
6. Liesel’s central thought about future bombings on Himmel Street are ____________________

“Frau Holtzapfel’s Offer”
1. The raid damages are ______________
2. Why does Frau Holtzapfel visit the Hubermanns?
3. What are Liesel’s feeling about the deal Mama makes with Frau?
4. Interpret the last line of the chapter.

“The Long Walk to Dachau”
1. What are the wishes Death hears as he exits the truck with the dead Jew? What arrives in Molching?
2. Explain the significance of Death’s statement that many of the Jews would greet death like their last true friend.
3. What impacts Liesel the most about the Jews passing thorough Molching on their way to Dachau?
4. Papa is beaten by the soldier because ____________________
5. Why is Papa suddenly overwhelmed, and what are the consequences he fears?

“Peace”
1. How does Max react to the events on the day? What is scheduled for four days later?
2. Explain the meaning of the note Hans finds at the river.
3. Why do you think that Death does not equate the word silence with the words peace, quiet, or calm following this event?

“The Idiot and the Coat Men”
1. Describe Han’s feelings about Max’s departure.
2. Why might the Hubermanns want the Party to come search their home?
3. Coat men-

Part Eight: The Word Shaker “
“Dominoes and Darkness”
1. Why have the men come to the Steiner’s home?
2. Why might the author intersperse the conversation in the kitchen with the conversation about dominoes that Rudy & his siblings hold?

“The Thought of Rudy Naked”
1. How does this chapter connect with the previous chapter?
2. The purpose of the inspection of Rudy & his classmates is _________________.
3. What does Rudy finally explain to Liesel, and how does she react?

“Punishment”
1. Why might Hans be grateful for punishment by the Nazi Party?
2. Why does the paper make Han’s suspicious?
3. What is Papa’s wish?

“The Promise Keeper’s Wife”
1. How do Alex & Hans spend the evening? What is Rosa’s reaction?
2. Discuss the scene of Hans & Liesel at the train station.
3. Where does Rudy tell Liesel they are going? Why? How is this characteristic of Rudy?
4. What image does Death provide of Rosa on the night Hans leaves? Does this change your perception of Rosa?

“The Collector”
1. Where are Hans & Steiner stationed? Duties?
2. Who are the LSE? Why have they been selected for this section?
3. Why is Han’s seat on the vehicle important?
4. Why does Death explain that Hans would “need to perfect the art of forgetting.”?

“The Bread Eaters”
1. Who are the “three desperate men” that consumes Liesel’s thoughts? What has become Liesel’s favorite distraction?
2. What does Rudy plan to do with the sack full of bread that he shows Liesel? What argument does he use to convince Liesel to help him?
3. How does the incident strengthen or alter the reader’s characterization of Rudy? Explain.
4. Why does Liesel attend the parades of the Jews? Explain her internal conflict.

“The Hidden Sketchbook”
1. What instructions does Liesel recall from Papa?
2. What gift does Rosa give Liesel and why would she choose this particular time to give it to her?
3. Comment on your impression of the Word Shaker. Why do you think Max decided to keep this in the book? What secret does the story impart to Liesel?

“The Anarchist’s Suit Collection”
1. How & where does Liesel obtain Rudy’s Christmas gift?
2. What does Death urge Liesel to do when Rudy falls? Does she oblige? Foreshadow upcoming events.

Part Nine: The Last Human Stranger
“The Next Temptation”
1. What does Liesel find when she & Rudy go to the mayors house? What does Liesel realize about the library?
2. Who enjoys the gift of cookies?

“The Cardplayer”
1. Briefly explain Reinhold Zucker.
2. Explain the last line of the chapter. Literary element?

“The Snows on Stalingrad”
1. Who answers Frau’s door in Jan. 1943?
2. What news does Michael bring Rosa?
3. How does the description of the battlefield & Death’s presence there affect your impression of Death?

“The Ageless Brother”
1. What does Liesel take to 8 Grande Strasse? How does she know she has done the right thing?
2. When Liesel thinks of her brother, what fills her with sadness then a smile?
3. After Liesel accepts her brother’s death, he no longer invades her dreams but appears to Liesel in another way. Why is this significant?
4. As Rosa clutches the accordion she _____________________. Liesel’s reaction?

“The Accident”
1. What order does Zucker give to Hans? How does Hans respond?
2. Discuss the results of the accident. What does Hans claim after he is safe? What past incident is this parallel to?
3. Based on Schipper’s explanation of Han’s injuries, what can be inferred about Hans’ character?

“The Bitter Taste of Questions”
1. Discuss the letter that Rosa & Liesel receive. What is Rudy’s response when Liesel tells him about the letter?

“One Toolbox, One Bleeder, One Bear”
1. Explain Rudy’s behavior since his father left & Hans has returned.
2. Infer the significance of Rudy walking down the street with his toolbox. Unusual tool? Purpose?
3. What commentary does Rudy offer about Liesel’s thieving? What does Rudy end up stealing?
4. Why does Michael Holtznapfel come to the Hubermanns? How do Rosa & Liesel respond? Are they successful?
5. Identify Michael Holtznapfel internal conflict in the shelter.
6. Describe how Liesel’s role changes from thief to provider in the shelter.

“Homecoming”
1. How many years have passed from Liesel’s arrival at the Hubermanns home & Han’s return?
2. What is Death’s implication in the last 2 lines of the chapter? How do Death’s words affect the tone?

Part Ten: The Book Thief
“The End of the World (Part I)
1. How does Death feel about the bombing of Himmel Street?
2. Throughout the novel, Zusak has stressed the power of words. How does this theme ring true in this chapter?
3. When Liesel is rescued, Death states that he could not fully share in their enthusiasm, why?
4. Explain the significance of Liesel’s scream as the soldiers pull her from the rubble.

“The Ninety Eight Day”
1. Why do you think Death describes the first 97 days after he has already told the reader the outcome of the 98th day?
2. Why are the Jews brought to the town during this period?
3. Death presents the image of Michael Holtznapfel on July 24th as a “pendulum, another clock stopped.” Identify & explain the figurative language.
4. What does Death learn about Michaels’ death from The Book Thief? Who gives the news to his mother?

“The War Maker”
1. What does Death reveal in regards to the war & the situation in Germany?

“Way of Words”
1. How does Liesel try to identify Max in the parade of Jews?
2. How does Liesel reach out to Max a second time she runs into him in the parade? What is the outcome?
3. Max thinks it’s a great day to die because ________________.
4. Analyze Rudy’s action in regards to Liesel & his relationship.

“Confessions”
1. Where does Rudy go after seeing Max? In what ways does Liesel demonstrate her supreme trust in Rudy?
2. Clarify the irony in what Liesel wants from Rudy.

“Ilsa Hermann’s Little Black Book”
1. Where does Liesel go to rejuvenate in mid August? What act of vandalism does she commit?
2. What does Liesel leave for Frau Hermann? How has the power of words changed Liesel?
3. Describe the scene when Frau Hermann comes to visit Liesel at 33 Himmel Street.

“The Rib Cage Planes”
1. How has the content of the bold sections changed in this chapter?
2. What literary device does Liesel use to describe Papa?
“The End of the World (Part II)
1. Why is Death telling the story of the Book thief?
2. Describe the sequence of event the night of the air raid.
3. Why does Death provide a detailed description of collecting the souls on Himmel Street?
4. Characterize Death by his ironic memories of life.
5. Death stresses the good things Rosa’s has done in her life because _________________. What does Liesel say to Rosa?
6. Describe the scene when Liesel sees Rudy’s body.
7. What metaphor does Death offer for Han’s body? When Liesel is finally able to look at Hans, what does Death see?
8. What vision, which Liesel reveals later to Death, does she have of Papa as she kneels next to his body? Identify the 2 items she leaves at his body and what happens to them.

Epilogue: The Last Color
“Death & Liesel”
1. Explain Liesel’s life. Describe her passing.

“Wood in the Afternoon”
1. Whom does Liesel live with after the bombing? Explain the connection with Alex Steiner.
2. Alex Steiner regrets _________________. Why?

“Max”
1. When does Liesel see Max again?

“The Handover Man”
1. Retell the discussion Death has with Liesel as he finally takes her.
2. What is the last note that Death offers us as readers?