The Book Thief

Parts 8-Epilogue Discussion Questions

Note: No Socratic Seminar between now and your next quiz, so be sure to complete these to prepare you for the quiz.

1. Why was Rudy selected for examination by the Nazi medical authorities? What was ironic about his selection?

2. How did Hans Hubermann’s job in the German army suit him?

3. Why did Liesel and Rudy go to observe the third march of the Jews in Dachau? And why did she continue to view them every time thereafter?

4. Why do you suppose transformed Rudy Steiner from an apple thief to a bread giver?

5. Why do you think Hans Hubermann’s letters were so brief?

6. What do you think Max’s book revealed about the power of words? How might words represent both beauty and evil? What message do you think the story imparted?
7. Why do you think Liesel did not seize the opportunity to kiss Rudy inside his father’s shop on Christmas night?

8. Why was Hans Hubermann allowed to return home?

9. Do you think Ilse Hermann was a Nazi sympathizer? Why or why not? How did Ilse Hermann inspire Liesel to write her own story?

10. Why do you think the author evoked sympathy for wounded German soldiers?

11. What did Death mean when he commented about Liesel as she observed the dying survivor of the plane crash? “She did not back away or try to fight me, but I know that something told the girl I was there…she knew me and she looked me in my face and she did not look away…we both moved on.”

12. How did Rudy save Liesel’s life?

13. What did Liesel realize when she found Rudy’s body after the bombing? How did she attempt to reach him?