**Prologue**

***The Book Thief* Study Questions Prologue and Part I**

Answer these questions as we read *The Book Thief*. These questions will help prepare you for your tests and quizzes in this unit. Answer each question completely and in full sentences on your own piece of paper. You do not need to write the question, just the answers.

**Death and Chocolate**

1. Who do you think the narrator is?
2. What is the story going to be about?

**Beside the Railway Line**

1. What has happened beside the train tracks?
2. Who do you think the guards are?
3. Who does the narrator say the young girl is?

**The Eclipse**

1. Where do we find the narrator at the beginning of this chapter? What has happened? Who does he see there?

**The Flag**

1. Where is the narrator now? What has happened?
2. What did the book thief have with her? What happened to it? What does the narrator do with the object?

**PART I—The Grave Digger’s Handbook**

**Arrival on Himmel Street**

1. Why was the book thief on the train? Who died? Where were they going?
2. What is the book thief’s name? What does the narrator tell us about her?
3. When does this take place?
4. What was Liesel dreaming about?
5. What does Liesel pick up in the cemetery?
6. What does “Himmel” mean?
7. Who are Liesel’s foster parents?
8. What is the first book Liesel took?

**Growing Up a Saumensch**

1. What color of eyes was it dangerous to have in Germany?
2. What strange word was associated with Liesel’s father?
3. What was Rosa Hubermann like?
4. What do we know about Hans Hubermann?

**The Woman With the Iron Fist**

1. What is the narrator’s definition of “Not leaving?”
2. Why was the Gravedigger’s Handbook so important?
3. What happened when Liesel went to school?
4. What did being 10 mean? What does BDM stand for and mean?
5. What were evenings like in the Hubermann’s household?
6. Who spit on the Hubermann’s Door every night? Who had to clean it up?

**The Kiss**

1. How did Liesel meet Rudy? What does the narrator tell you about him?
2. What are some things Rudy points out to Liesel as they walk to school?
3. What is the Road of Yellow Stars?
4. Who is Pfiffikus? How did he get the name? What does it mean?
5. What was the outcome of Liesel’s and Rudy’s race? What was the prize for the winner?

**The Jesse Owens Incident**

1. What happened in 1936?
2. What was Hitler’s reaction to Jesse Owens winning his fourth gold medal?
3. What are the basic ideas Mr. Steiner held about politics?
4. Why didn’t Mr. Steiner want Rudy to be like Jesse Owens?

**The Other Side of Sandpaper**

1. What percentage of Germans supported Hitler by 1939? Was Hans Hubermann among this percentage?
2. What happens when Papa find Liesel’s book?
3. Why did Liesel learn to alphabet better this time than at school?

**The Smell of Friendship**

1. Where did Liesel and Papa go to learn to read?
2. What did Liesel think was the “smell of friendship?”

**The Heavyweight Champion of the School-Yard**

1. What two things happened in the fall of 1939?
2. Why was Liesel advanced to her proper grade level?
3. What happened during the reading test?
4. How did Liesel become the heavyweight champion?