

*The Book Thief* Discussion Questions 8 (pgs.257-299)

1. What does Liesel realize on page 271 about her and Rudy's experience with the Hitler Youth group?
2. Compare Victor Chemmel and Arthur Burg as leaders. How do their leadership styles compare to those from the historical period?
3. Victor Chemmel states, "No crime in wanting a little more...Wanting more is our fundamental right as Germans. What does our Fuhrer say? We must take what is rightfully ours!" (273) How does this passage relate to some of the other passages we've discussed? How does it relate to the setting? Could these passages point to a theme? If so, what might Zuzak be trying to tell us?
4. What is it about the the second drawing in Max's book that frightens Liesel? What is he trying to express?
5. Liesel did not want *The Whistler* given to her out of pity but she felt stealing it was more acceptable. She thought, "Stealing it, in a sick sense, was like earning it." (287) Rudy thinks it is ok for him to steal because he is starving (295). What do you think of Rudy & Liesel's stealing? Is it more acceptable because they have nothing and are hungry? Why or why not.
6. Look back at Liesel's defense of Rosa on page 291. What does this tell us about her & Rosa relationship now compared to at the beginning of the novel?
7. What are something's we learn about Rudy as a character in this section? Why do you think he behaves so dangerously?
8. Death searches for beauty in Germany at this time, 1942. Do you think he succeeded? Is that what this book is all about?