

Character analysis

Name	Liesel Meminger
Appearance/physical attributes	Adopted girl on the verge of adolescence, blonde hair, brown eyes
Personality traits	At first withdrawn, strong moral code, empathy, courageous, strong sense of justice-fairness.
Background	Parents communists, brother dies, fostered by the Hubermanns.
Conflicts she/he experiences Struggles she/he encounters	Death-desire to live/ <u>Words as propaganda caused all this-but words also have the power to travel you, change the world/to survive must join the Hitler Youth Movement and burn books-steals/saves books.</u>
How she/he overcomes them	Words-books-reading-writing help her mature emotionally Reading creates a refuge in war-torn Germany
Actions/behaviours	Beats up a boy who made fun of her Steals gravediggers guide, Learns how to read Steals books from bonfire and Mayor's wife Reads to and takes care of Max, not afraid to run near him as he is marched through town, writes her own book
<u>Motivation:</u> Reasons for acting the way she/he acts-for making the choices she/he makes How they act (wisely-impulsively-ethically etc.)	She has a strong moral code (system)/Questions the status quo- does not blindly follow what society dictates. She is motivated by a strong sense of guilt and a strong ideal of justice. As she matures, she becomes a critical thinker (reading helps her do that...). She understands that language can be both a weapon of control, as with the Nazi propaganda, and a gift that enables her to broaden her view of the world. Through the books she steals, reads and writes, she evolves from a powerless character to a powerful character who deeply empathizes with the voiceless.
Relationships with other characters	She loves her foster parents She loves Max like a brother She loves Rudy
Significance of role in story	She is the main character/protagonist. Having lost her parents and family she understands the pain of loss, and these experiences inform her actions and attitudes toward the other characters. She not only cares about specific people in her life, she cares about justice in general. Her new parents and friends show kindness to her. She opens up and does the same. She channels her anger to stick up for herself and others, for example, she beats a kid up but then protects him at the bonfire.

