

Week 23

The Book Thief

Literary Devices Notes

Parts Four and Five

1. What does the accordion symbolize?
2. Why do you think the narrator provided a flashback to Hans Hubermann's WWI experiences?
3. The author uses a simile to describe Max's voice. "...there was humor in Max Vandenburg's voice, though its physicality was like friction—like a stone being gently rubbed across a large rock." (p. 217) What is being compared? Why is this comparison appropriate?
4. What did the dream of Max fighting with the Fuhrer symbolize?
5. Max and his friends painted over the pages of Mein Kampf. What does this symbolize?
6. The author uses personification to give the reader a vivid description of Liesel thinking about Max while she is visiting the mayor's wife. "As the book quivered in her lap, the secret sat in her mouth. It made itself comfortable. It crossed its legs." (p. 146). Two things are being personified. What are they? What visualizations does this give the reader?
7. "For Max Vandenburg, there was cool cement and plenty of time to spend with it. The minutes were cruel. Hours were punishing." (p. 150) The author uses personification to characterize time. How does this help the reader to understand how Max feels about time?
8. "Although the front and back pages were streaked with black tears of print..." (p. 147) What two things are being compared? Why do you think the author used tears as a comparison? Which literary device is this? Why?

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