

January 2008

## REVIEW: The Book Thief

Traci Peter

*Brenau University Trustee Library*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq>

---

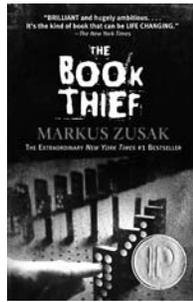
### Recommended Citation

Peter, Traci (2008) "REVIEW: The Book Thief," *Georgia Library Quarterly*: Vol. 44 : Iss. 4 , Article 39.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol44/iss4/39>

This Review is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Georgia Library Quarterly by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu).

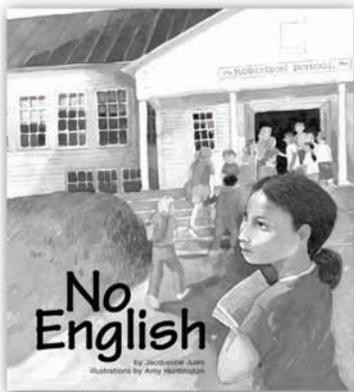
**The Book Thief** by Marcus Zusak  
(Alfred A. Knopf, 2005; ISBN 978-0375-93100-0, \$16.95).

*The Book Thief*, narrated by the perceptive Death, presents hauntingly beautiful visions of Nazi Germany during the Second World War. Despite efforts to avoid the living, Death comes to observe the young Liesel Meminger, rightfully dubbed “the Book Thief,” on three occasions. At the age of nine, Liesel and her younger brother are brought to Molching, Germany, to live with a foster family. After the funeral of her brother, who dies in transit to the foster home, Death witnesses an illiterate Liesel stealing the *Gravedigger’s Handbook* from the snow. She subsequently arrives alone at her foster parents’ house on the poor Himmel (Heaven) Street. By day, Liesel is cursed by her foster mother Rosa Hubermann, who secretly possesses a heart of gold. By night, she has her nightmares comforted by her silver-eyed foster father Hans, who paints houses, plays the accordion and is a man who can keep a secret. During these sleepless



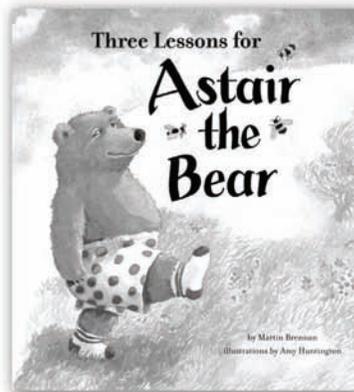
nights, Hans teaches Liesel to understand the writing in her stolen handbook. As Liesel learns to read, she craves more books and risks her life to obtain them, even stealing one from a fire. She also discovers that Molching is full of interesting people like her best friend Rudy, a boy with hair the color of lemons, and the distraught mayor’s wife, Ilsa Hermann, who simply looks away when Liesel steals books from her large library. When a man named Max arrives on the Hubermann’s doorstep appearing weary, broken and clutching the copy of *Mein Kampf* that saved him on his journey, Liesel’s life is forever changed. Liesel’s friendship with the Jewish fist-fighter and her willingness to keep her foster father’s secret help her realize the extreme power of words and their use in good or evil. *The Book Thief* deserves a place in every library. The novel is one of the nominees for the 2007-2008 Georgia Peach Book Award for Teen Readers, a 2007 Printz Honor Book, and is recommended for ages 15 through adult readers. ▶▶

— Reviewed by **Traci Peter**  
*Brenau University Trustee Library*



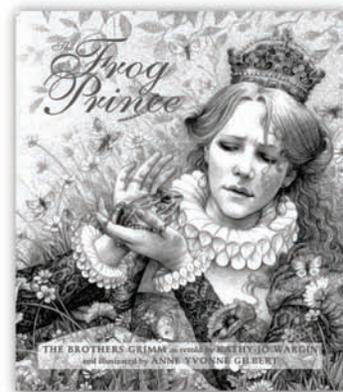
Just imagine arriving in a classroom and speaking a different language than everyone else around you! The story encourages a new look at differences and finding creative ways to bridge gaps with knowledge and understanding.

978-1-58726-474-0  
\$17.95



Astair the bear is a loveable fellow with many friends, and our bumbling bear learns the value of good grooming habits, discovers the consequences of anger, and finds out that buying too many things can get in the way of your happiness.

978-1-58726-435-1  
\$17.95



This Brothers Grimm tale of a spoiled princess finding her handsome prince by breaking a witch’s spell has enchanted readers since it was written in the early 1800s.

978-1-58726-279-1  
\$18.95



[www.mittenpress.com](http://www.mittenpress.com)  
1-877-722-2264