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*The Book Thief*

“Show & Tell” - Daily Reading Reflection

As we read *The Book Thief*, whether it is in-class reading or assigned reading at home, you will be required to find and analyze one *word, moment, event, experience, etc.* that impacted you as you read. Your main objective: find one separate sentence, phrase, piece of dialogue, chunk of writing, a paragraph, etc. from *The Book Thief* and personally reflect & analyze.

**How do I choose my daily “Show & Tell”?**

Your “S&T” choice may….

* help you to better understand the plot, an individual character, setting, etc.
* draw your attention.
* be something you can relate to directly or indirectly.
* or, just may sound unbelievably beautiful to you.

**Now, what to do with your “S&T” - (The writing assignment):**

* 1. Provide the “S&T” within parenthetical citation --Yes, this is textual evidence. Do not forget the page number.
* 2. Explain the “S&T”:
	+ Explain what is going on in the novel when your S&T takes place.
	+ Explain what it means.-- What does this show us as the reader?
	+ Explain your reasoning for why you chose it!
* Analyze the “S&T”:
	+ Answer *so what*? Explain what the author is trying to get across to the reader. (Think of the bigger picture… the WHY? The lesson to learn!)

**An “S&T” Example:**

**Date:**   Monday, Oct 20th, 2014

S&T:    “Buried beneath the folded layer of clothes in that suitcase was a small black book… -- a black book with silver words written against the ceiling of her clothes… The book thief had struck for the first time -- the beginning of an illustrious career” (Zusak, 28-29).

Explain:     \*\***In the story,** Liesel just arrived on Himmel street. In her suitcase she had hidden between the book she picked up (stole) from the grave site of her brother. She picked the book up without thinking of who it belonged to or trying to find its owner.     \*\***The meaning** behind this item, for Liesel, is it represents the last time she saw her brother and the last time she saw her mother. It’s that simple.     \*\***I chose** this moment because I remember when I read the meaning that this book represented for Liesel, my heart broke. I personally connect with the idea that one item can hold so much memory for a person. For me, it is a ring I wore to both my Grandmother’s funerals. They both died within a week of each other and it was a very difficult time for me. I remember looking and fiddling with the ring when tears would start to formulate.

Analyze:       The **so what** of this book is not the book itself and what it represents for Liesel. It is about the meaning and purpose behind the item itself. Zusak uses the book to point out a very universal truth… there are things in life we assign symbols, metaphors, and deeper meanings to. Whether it is a tangible item, a song, a smell, a place, or an idea, we create schematic links between these things and personal memories -- good or bad. Zusak may be trying to connect the reader and Leisel on a personal level. To connect emotional past-times and memories linked to personal experiences. Even if it isn’t a connection to death,, a reader can see the universal truth through this specific item -- *The Grave Digger's Handbook*.