

THE BOOK THIEF: MOVIE VERSION

Study Guide compares the novel *THE BOOK THIEF* by Markus Zusak to the movie version *The Book Thief* (2013) starring Sophie Nelisse, Geoffrey Rush, Emily Watson, and Ben Schnetzer. Directed by Brian Percival. Fox 2000 Pictures.



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SAMPLE THE BOOK THIEF: MOVIE VERSION

THE MOVIE VERSION OF *THE BOOK THIEF* IS NOT LIKE THE BOOK by Markus Zusak

RECOMMENDED MOVIE: *The Book Thief* (2013) starring Sophie Nelisse, Geoffrey Rush, Emily Watson, and Ben Schnetzer

HOW ACCURATE IS THE MOVIE VERSION OF THE BOOK?

Plot: ★★☆☆☆ **Characters:** ★★★★★ **Setting:** ★★★★★

Structure: ★★★★★ **Symbols:** ★★☆☆☆ **Theme:** ★★★★★

WHAT'S IN THE BOOK THAT'S NOT IN THE MOVIE?

Liesel's nightmares, Rudy's medals, Arthur Berg's theft gang, Max's sketches, *The Standover Man*, *The Word Shaker*, Hans's giving bread to a prisoner, Hans Junior, Trudy, Frau Holtzapfel, Sister Maria, Victor Chemmel, Tommy Muller, Ludwig Schmeickl, Reinhold Zucker, Rudy and Liesel leaving bread on the road to Dachau, whippings of Hans and Liesel, plane crash, teddy bear, Michael Holtzapfel, Ilsa Hermann's gift of the blank book.

WHAT'S IN THE MOVIE THAT'S NOT IN THE BOOK?

Brahms lullaby, photograph of Werner, ones spit yes/two spits no, "Your majesty," Max's gift of a blank book, Liesel signing her name with X's, Max hiding under the flag, Max venturing into the street, Franz Deutscher throwing the book in the river, *The Invisible Man*, Liesel's story-telling in the air raid shelter, Rudy's last words to Liesel.

WHAT'S THE SAME?

Himmel Street, World War II, soccer, Jesse Owens, the accordion, Liesel's struggle to read, stealing books, burning books, Hitler Youth, Nazi tyranny, antisemitism, mayor's library, Mein Kampf, pea soup, snowman, air raids, parade of Jews to Dachau.

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THE MOVIE: SUMMARY

The following is a scene-by-scene comparison of the movie to the corresponding chapters in the book.

THE MOVIE: PROLOGUE

Death and Chocolate.

The narrator of the book is Death. (*ACCURATE*) Death says, “It is a fact that you are going to die.” (*ACCURATE*) The voice of Death explains that sometimes he becomes interested in some people. (*ACCURATE*) One such person is Liesel Meminger, the book thief. (*ACCURATE*)

OMISSIONS:

Death and Chocolate.

The narrator Death explains what happens when we die. Death takes our souls and carries us away. Death sees the world in colors. Death prefers to take people when the sky is a dark chocolate color. Death saw the book thief three times: 1. On a train 2. At a plane crash 3. At a bombing of a suburban neighborhood.

Beside the Railway Line. THIS CHAPTER IS OMITTED FROM THE MOVIE.

Death describes a white day, a snowy day in Germany in 1939. A little boy dies on a train. Two guards argue about what to do with his body. The boy’s mother and sister, the book thief, are silent.

THE MOVIE: PART ONE The Gravedigger’s Handbook

Arrival on Himmel Street.

Liesel Meminger is 9-years-old. (*ACCURATE*) She and her mother and 6-year-old brother Werner are on a train to Munich on a snowy day. (*ACCURATE*) The setting is Germany in 1938. (*ERROR:* In the book the setting is January 1939) The boy is asleep, stretched across his mother’s lap. (*ACCURATE*) Liesel hums a lullaby by Brahms. (*ERROR:* Not in the book) Suddenly Liesel cries, “Mama!” when she sees the boy’s face. (*ERROR:* Not in the book) The boy is dead. (*ACCURATE*)

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