Using the book thief in the classroom. Before Reading the Book or Watching the Movie: Coordination of Classes. Paintings and other works of art that the Nazis disliked were destroyed. Propaganda. The Nazi party used propaganda, including Hitler's autobiographical manifesto, Mein Kampf (My Struggle), to acquire and maintain control over German society. 3. Write an essay comparing The Book Thief with a story that contains both strong characterizations and a resolution deriving from the conflicts faced by the characters (e.g. Hamlet) or with a story dominated by plot such as (e.g., Romeo and Juliet). For additional suggested ELA Assignments, see the Additional Assignments Section of the Supplemental Materials. It's the story of one of those perpetual survivors—an expert at being left behind. It's just a small story really, about, among other things: * A girl. * Some words. The book thief and her brother were traveling down toward Munich, where they would soon be given over to foster parents. We now know, of course, that the boy didn't make it. HOW IT HAPPENED. The Book Thief is narrated by Death (yup, you heard that right) who tells us the story of Liesel Meminger. It's January 1939, and ten year old Liesel is traveling by train with her mother and her little brother Werner. Liesel and Werner are being taken to the small town of Molching, just outside of Munich, Germany, to live with foster parents Hans and Rosa Hubermann. Werner dies on the train of mysterious causes having to do with poverty, hunger, cold, and lack of medical treatment. One night, Hans finds The Grave Digger's Handbook hidden in Liesel's mattress after her usual nightmare of seeing her brother dying on the train. This is what inspires him to begin teaching her to read. When Liesel learns to write, she begins composing letters to her mother, but these letters go unanswered.