

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:** ★★★★★

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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QUIZ

This quiz compares the movie *The Book Thief* (2013) starring Sophie Nelisse, Geoffrey Rush, Emily Watson and Ben Schnetzer with the novel *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak.

- ____ 1. In the movie and the book the narrator is
a. Rudy b. Liesel c. Max d. Death
- ____ 2. In the movie and the book Liesel takes a book titled *The Grave Digger's Handbook*
a. at her brother's funeral
b. from the mayor's library
c. from the school library
d. at a church
- ____ 3. In the movie and the book Liesel has such poor hygiene that Rosa calls her "saumensh"
meaning a dirty
a. dog b. rat c. pig d. brat

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