MAX and LIESEL A significant relationship Similarities and differences

Liesel Max

Loss:of family, security, the familiar Loss:of family, security, the familiar

Loves words and books and reading Loves words and books and reading

Still learning about reading Brings knowledge with him

Is the reader is the writer of books

Hate Hitler Hate Hitler

Nightmares haunt them Nightmares haunt them

– regret, loss, guilt, horror of war – regret, loss, guilt, horror of war

Hans and Rosa offer love, become her family Hans and Rosa offer safety and care

Fist fighter – successful - gained respect Fistfighter – only 3 wins against 7 losses

Gained a friend for life

Social and political outcasts “Kommunist” Social and political outcasts “Jew”

Imprisoned initially by grief and lack of

Knowledge Imprisoned and isolated because Jewish

Describe how Max affected Liesel’s life

Brother and sister; friends; teacher and learner; carer and cared for

Bonded by common suffering and loss

Max makes Liesel aware of the nature of prejudice and the wrongs suffered by people / done to people. Helps her become aware of the nature of the world

Teaches Liesel that labels are not the truth

Liesel gives Max hope, brightens his existence, helps him endure his imprisonment ( snowman, colourful weather reports, finding crosswords, reading to him when ill)

Max gives her words in the books he writes for her – the Standover man – a book destroying Hitler’s power – the words of Main Kampff washed out by white paint. And later The WordShaker. – the power of words and wordsmiths to destroy the killing words of Hitler

Max is someone she can love - a member of her family – a brother to replace her six year old brother

He understands her suffering – they have this in common

He is a burden of secrecy – the family of Rosa, Hans and Liesel grows stronger in this shared secret .

Max gives Liesel a focus and purpose - when she reads when he is sick – She believes “words alone can nourish him”

She reads to him and then reads to the others in the bomb shelter – the power of words spreads.

Liesel feels a sense of being less powerless.

KEY QUOTES:

“I hate the Fuhrer” she said

“Max and Liesel were held together by the quiet gathering of words”

“On her birthday, it was she who gave a gift to me- a hug.”

“It was when Liesel came down , however, that Max found himself interested in life again.”

“On the ropey cloud, he drew two figures – a thin girl and a withering Jew- and they were walking, arms balanced, towards the dripping sun.”

“They looked on as both the hidden Jew and the girl slept, hand to shoulder. They breathed. German and Jewish lungs.”

“When Death captures me he will feel my fist on his face “ Max

“One was a book thief, the other stole the sky”