

Name _____

The Book Thief

Date _____

Period _____

Author's Purpose: Minor Characters

Most authors develop their novels with major and minor characters. However, we rarely take the time to think about the purpose and impact of the minor characters on the overall plot. Frequently, the minor characters develop the major characters—through the interaction with the minor character a character trait or conflict is developed in a major character. Additionally, the minor characters can help to establish point of view, setting, and theme. Think about the role the minor characters below play in the novel. For each, identify his or her role in the story, identify and support a trait, and explain the importance of the minor character to the novel as a whole.

Death Role: Trait: Support: Purpose:	Ilsa Hermann Role: Trait: Support: Purpose:
Frau Holtzaphel Role: Trait: Support: Purpose:	Tommy Muller Role: Trait: Support: Purpose:

<p>Werner Meminger</p> <p>Role:</p> <p>Trait:</p> <p>Support:</p> <p>Purpose:</p>	<p>Paula Meminger</p> <p>Role:</p> <p>Trait:</p> <p>Support:</p> <p>Purpose:</p>
<p>Hans Hubermann Jr.</p> <p>Role:</p> <p>Trait:</p> <p>Support:</p> <p>Purpose:</p>	<p>Erik Vandenburg</p> <p>Role:</p> <p>Trait:</p> <p>Support:</p> <p>Purpose:</p>

Of the characters you have just analyzed, which is most significant to the plot? Develop your argument in several complete sentences.