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Rosa Hubermann Final Ess

Is there a theme that you will focus on?

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak is a book narrated by Death. As the book follows a few certain characters around the time of war. We get to see the growth and progression of these characters throughout the book. It is an important factor to take in as we examine the transformation of the characters themselves, and their intentions. A character that will be broadly looked at is Rosa Hubermann.

Rosa Hubermann is the character of Liesel Memingers foster mother. Rosa has a fiery attitude and she rules the house with an iron fist. In our first introduction we get a very strong idea of what she is like; her face,

what does this
↓ mean?

which was like "creased up cardboard".
When we first meet Rosa, we don't necessarily trust her with Liesel.

Why? →

We're nervous. But that is only at first glance. As we break down her tough exterior, this once simple looking character turns into an intricate puzzle. As her true colors are revealed, she is still a firm believer in tough love but with heart warming intentions.

Analyse this further ↓

Rosa co-parents Liesel with Hans Hubermann; her husband. Hans also helps exaggerate Rosa's harshness when they are side by side. "Rosa Hubermann had a face decorated with constant frowns. Hans' persona gives him off as having, a calm soft nature. So you perceive Rosa as being even more of a harsh soul; she was good at being furious."

halfway through the novel as we have the arrival of Max Vandenburg. The actions he causes helps us see Rosa's big heart and true self. We get to see her kind, maternal nature. But the sudden change didn't just surprise us; what shocked Liesel the most was the sudden change in her mama. Though it didn't shock death; she was a good woman for a crisis. Her heart warming gestures, taking Max in. Giving him servings when there was barely enough for the three of them to start with. Taking time out of her day to look after him. While also trying to keep up with the washing and ironing for the wealthy inhabitants of Himmel Street to not raise

suspicion. After her change in manner we have a whole new perspective of Rosa. But she still keeps her fiery approach to situations.

After we found out that Hans was being sent to war. We can clearly see that Rosa is distraught; 'Rosa had a small rip beneath her right eye. And within the minute, the cardboard face was broken. Not down the centre but to the right. It parted down her cheek in an arc finishing at her chin'. After Hans leaves, Liesel is the only thing Rosa has left. This is where we see the entirely soft side of Rosa as she truly cares for Liesel; 'I can tell you one thing girl. I'm not letting you get sick.'

By the end of the novel the Rosa that we've grown to love is sadly taken away from us. She had become a treasured character. As it comes to a close we all know Rosa is more to what meets the eye. She demonstrates incredible acts of kindness and love we never thought were possible from her. This in conclusion leads us to think of her as an extremely honourable and respectable character. Still though to the outside world of Himm Street, Rosa Huberman remains a cold and harsh woman. She is a complex character. A paradox.