



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

# **PABLO CASALS MIDDLE SCHOOL 181**

800 Baychester Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10475

Christopher Warnock  
*Principal*

(718) 904 5600  
FAX (718) 904-5620  
E-Mail: [cwarnoc@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:cwarnoc@schools.nyc.gov)

Jennifer Kirrane  
Constantine Kouvatso  
Nelson Medina  
Rachel Philbert  
*Assistant Principals*

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We hope that your upcoming summer vacation is enjoyable and safe. We expect our students to maintain their literacy skill level during this time. To achieve this goal, the Pablo Casals 181 Literacy Department has mandated summer assignments.

The reading comprehension activities in this packet are based on the following novels:

**The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak**  
**Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different by Karen Blumenthal**

All assignments can be found on the following site:

<http://welcometo181.weebly.com>

Your child's literacy teacher will collect the summer work the second week of school. This is an essential first step on the path to success at MS 181. The assessments will constitute an important part of the first marking period grade and it is essential that your child complete all summer assignments and submit them on time!

Have a wonderful summer vacation. We look forward to seeing you in September!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kirrane, Assistant Principal, Literacy

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading

### Required Novels:

1) The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

2) Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different  
by Karen Blumenthal

#### Task:

- For **each** novel, students must read the text and complete the task.
- Make sure to include your name and class on each sheet you are submitting.  
Assignments will be collected on the first day of school

## ***The Book Thief***

***Answer the following questions based on the novel. You must use evidence from the text to support your response. Each response should be at least one paragraph in length. Your responses should be completed on a separate piece of paper.***

### **Tasks:**

1. Consider Zusak's use of foreshadowing. By revealing how character's die early on or the outcomes to certain events, does Zusak make the novel less or more suspenseful?
2. Hans manages to survive two World Wars, seemingly by luck. Is Hans merely a fortunate man or does he have other qualities that help him to survive?
3. When Liesel reads aloud to others in the bomb shelter for the first time, a voice inside her says, "This is your accordion." Explain what this means.
4. Evaluate the pros and cons of Hans giving bread to an elderly Jew condemned to a concentration camp. Were the consequences worth the benefits?

### ***Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different***

***Answer the following questions based on the novel. You must use evidence from the text to support your response. Each response should be at least one paragraph in length. Your work must be completed on a separate piece of paper.***

#### ***Tasks:***

1. One motto held by Steve Jobs was, "Think Differently". How did this lead to his success? What challenges did he face as a result of his thinking?
2. What characteristics did Steve Jobs have that made him a good leader of Apple? What traits did he possess that made him a poor leader?
3. Explain the theme of the novel. Identify three specific lines or quotes from the novel. Explain how each line helps to develop the novel's theme.