

Vocabulary Within the Text

Abhorrence (ab-hor-ence) NOUN

A feeling of extreme loathing or hate

Variations: abhor (verb)

Example: “The **abhorrence** on his cheeks was growing thicker by the moment” (Zusak 7).

Trepidation (trep-eh-day-shun) NOUN

Fear, alarm, or trembling movement

Variations: trepidatious (adjective); trepidatiously (adverb)

Example: “With great **trepidation**, he approached the cockpit and watched the pilot, gauging if he was alive” (10).

Enviably (en-vi-ah-bull) ADJECTIVE

Worthy of envy; very desirable

Variations: enviableness (noun), enviable (adverb)

Example: “As far as dispositions go, [Rosa’s] wasn’t really **enviable**, although she had a good record with foster kids in the past (26).

Illustrious (Eel-luss-tree-us) ADJECTIVE

Highly distinguished; famous

Variations: illustriousness (noun), illustriously (adverb)

Example: “The book thief had struck for the first time – the beginning of an **illustrious** career” (29).

Berate (be-rate) VERB

To scold or abuse

Variations: berated, berating,

Example: “When she finished **berating** the people she worked for, Rosa Hubermann would usually move on to her other favorite theme of abuse. Her husband” (43).



Catalyst (cat-ul-list) NOUN

A person or thing that causes an event or change

Variations: none

Example: “Rudy would soon become Liesel’s best friend, and later, her partner and sometime **catalyst** in crime” (47).

Nefarious (neh-far-ee-us) ADJECTIVE

Extremely wicked or villainous

Variations: nefariousness (noun); nefariously (adverb)

Example: “Fau Diller was a sharp-edged woman with fat glasses and a **nefarious** glare” (49).

Bigot (big-uht) NOUN

A person who is utterly intolerant of any different opinions; an ignorant individual who is not open to diversity

Variations: bigoted (adjective)

Example: “Nazi Germany was . . . a nation of hate-fed **bigots**” (84).

Calamity (kuh-lam-ih-tee) NOUN

A great misfortune or disaster as a flood or serious injury; misery

Variations: none

Example: “Earlier, there had been a minor **calamity**. The Hubermanns couldn’t find their flag” (103).

Grotesque (grow-tess-kah) ADJECTIVE

Odd or unnatural in shape, appearance, or character; fantastically ugly or bizarre

Variations: grotesqueness (noun), grotesquely (adverb)

Example: “Something **grotesque** and alien . . . had somehow landed miraculously in the middle of town [when the books started to burn]” (109).



Despondently (des-pond-ent-lee) ADVERB

Feeling or showing profound hopelessness, discouragement, or gloom

Variations: despondent (adjective)

Example: “[Liesel] often heard him and Mama discussing [Papa’s] lack of work or talking **despondently** about Hans going to see their son . . . [who was] most likely already on his way to war” (143).

Diabolic (die-ah-bahl-ik) ADJECTIVE

Having the qualities of a devil; outrageously wicked

Variations: diabolical (adjective); diabolicalness (noun); diabolically (adverb)

Example: “After approximately fifteen minutes, the **diabolical** plan [to steal the food] bore its fruit, so to speak” (152).

Morose (more-oh-ss) ADJECTIVE

Gloomily or suddenly ill-humored; expressing gloom

Variations: morosely (adverb); moroseness/morosity (nouns)

Example: “In sloppy lettering, the words JEWSIH FILTH were spilling over at their edges. The movement inside tapered from hurried to **morose** . . .” (181).

Hiatus (high-ay-tuss) NOUN

A break or interruption in the continuity of a work, series, or action; a missing part or gap

Variations: hiatal (adjective)

Example: “Since Max’s arrival, there had been a considerable **hiatus** in the reading practice of Liesel and her papa” (213).

Forlornly (for-lorn-lee) ADVERB

Unhappy, lonely, sad, forsaken

Variations: forlorn (adjective); forlornness (noun)

Example: “Liesel did not go home, either. She walked **forlornly** to the train station and waited for her papa for hours” (516).

