**Tazmi Siddique**

**Quiz 2**

In The Book Thief (2005), Makrus Zusak, illustrates the relationship between Hans Hubbermann and Erik Vanderburg by portraying the theme of guilt. During the war Hans was saved due to his ability of good penmanship, but Erik wasn’t so lucky. Hans’s guilt didn’t come from Erik’s death but the face that Erik’s son will never see his father again. For example, “You never told me, “he said to be a dead Erik Vanderburg and the Stuttgart skyline. “You never told me you had a son (p.179). Hans guilt never faded he constantly remember that a Erik Vanderburg, a Jew saved his life has explaining why Hans is against the Nazi party, but there was a way to repay this debt that he owed through Erik’s son max Vanderburg.

There is a connection with Hans and Max. What is this connection? The past and the present. There are ties from Hans past that links his present together with the theme of guilt. Hans Hubbermann was not a very happy man, his own children drifted away from the family, his son called him a coward and he has this guilt hanging over him, he needs some sort of redemption which he is trying o achieve through Max. “Are you a man who likes to keep a promise? Hans took out two paint cans and invited him to side down. Before he accepted the invitation,’ (p.184). In the past Hans promised Erik’s wife to paint her apartment, not to conceal her son in his house. Knowing that if caught the consequences would be sever, he still risked his life, the life of his family, and also Max’s life but he couldn’t refuse even with all this at stake he had too much guilt on his conscience, he had ta debt to pay.

Max Vanderburg does not fall far from the theme of guilt himself Max was consumed by guilt and shame, he was degraded and thrown around like trash, he was forcibly torn from his beloved family and force to live like a rat in order to survive, for an instance, “The basement was the only place for him as far as he was concerned. Forget the cold and the loneliness. He was a Jew, and if there was on place he was destined to exist, it was the basement.” (p. 207). How can you have any dignity when you’re living like this? You cannot. Max’s guilt came from the danger he brought those around him such as, his own family, Walter, and Hans and his family. Entering the Hubbermann household Max knew the hazards that he brought with him, death, e.g. “The one problem was that a person needed only to shift a few cans and remove a drop sheet or two to smell out the Jew” 9p.208). Max was deprived of everything, guilt and shame was all he had left.