The Book Thief
Are we worth it?

“Yes, often, I am reminded of her, and in one of my vast array of pockets, I have kept her story to retell. It is one of the small legion I carry, each one extraordinary in its own right. Each one attempt — an immense leap of an attempt — to prove to me that you, and your human existence, are worth it.” — pp. 14 & 15

DIRECTIONS: Markus Zusak sets this question in our head right from the start — and hopefully you’ve been thinking of this as you’ve been reading. As we have done with other pieces, we need to be able to demonstrate our ability to apply our understanding of the novel to real life. I have provided you with two supplemental, non-fiction pieces that also call this question to mind.

Read each of the pieces (“Calumet man…” and “Bleeding Moammar…””) and respond to the questions provided at the end. After you have done that, think to the story so far for examples that support your stance on this topic. After you have done these things, in SOME WAY — so in a way that you are most comfortable with — brainstorm for an analysis essay that explains whether or not we as a society are worth it.

You will have to incorporate one quote or anecdote from each of the supplemental reads as well as one quote or anecdote from The Book Thief. Use the back of this sheet for your brainstorming.