

Related Reading

The Book Thief

John Donne

“Death Be Not Proud”

Death, be not proud, though some have called thee
Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so;
For those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow,
Die not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me.
From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be,
Much pleasure; then from thee much more must flow,
And soonest our best men with thee do go,
Rest of their bones, and soul's delivery.
Thou art slave to fate, chance, kings, and desperate men,
And dost with poison, war, and sickness dwell;
And poppy or charms can make us sleep as well
And better than thy stroke; why swell'st thou then?
One short sleep past, we wake eternally,
And death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die.

TASK:

Using the first chapter of *The Book Thief* and this poem, compose an essay compare and contrasting the selections, focusing on the following questions:

- How does the author choose to personify Death in the selection?
- What is the tone of the selection?
- Does Death enjoy his job or role? How do you know?

Use textual evidence from each selection in the development of the essay. You will have a total of five paragraphs: introduction, question one's response, question two's response, and question three's response, and a conclusion. Be careful in the construction of the thesis statement. Complete the assignment using Google Docs.