World War II was a time of terrible death in which millions of lives were lost. Therefore, it is only appropriate that a story taking place during it be told from the perspective of Death itself. Markus Zusak's very unique point of view in *The Book Thief* is necessary to properly tell the story. This unique point of view is used to darken the story, foreshadow what is to come, and give brief descriptions.

The Spirit of Death as the narrator sets a dark mood over the story. The opening statement immediately shows that this is not a light story, "***HERE IS A SMALL FACT*** you are going to die" (Chapter 1). Throughout the story "Death" talks about all the death going on around him. He talks about carrying thousands of souls on his shoulders in one day creating a dark atmosphere around the story and reminding the reader of the death involved in World War II. His narration not only talks of deaths that have happened, but also of ones that have yet to occur.

The unique point of view allows the narrator to foreshadow upcoming events. These upcoming events that Death talks about usually revolve around the death or near death of a person, "***SOME FACTS ABOUT HANS HUBERMANN***...He had already cheated me in one World War but would later be put into another...where he would somehow manage to avoid me again" (Chapter 3). He offers you a glimpse of the end, when he says it was "raining on Himmel street when the world ended for Liesel Meringer" (Chapter 33). In telling the reader this, the narrator is trying to soften the blow when it actually happens. However, Despite being Death itself, not everything he says relates to death.

Death gives random brief descriptions that allow the reader to better follow the story, "***SOME FACTS ABOUT ROSA HUBERMANN***...she possessed the unique ability to aggravate almost everyone she ever met. . .but she *did* love Liesel. . .her way of showing it just happened to be strange" (Chapter 3). This brief description allows the reader to have an immediate good understanding of Rosa. These brief descriptions found throughout the story allow events to be told
very quickly so that they do not take up huge parts of the story.

Death's narration gives the tale a very dark feel, continually foreshadows the end, and gives descriptions which allow the reader to properly understand the story. It also gives us insight to him and his view on man. Although it is his job to take men's soul's when they die, he is not an evil being, but rather hates his job and talks about how tiresome he finds it. He tells the story of Liesel Meringer because it is a sad one and one he thinks should never be forgotten. His narration leaves a deep impression on the reader as to the horrors of death and war.