The Book Thief – Comprehension Questions

On a separate sheet of paper, answer the following questions in complete sentences -

1. Who is the narrator?
2. What instrument does Hans play?
3. Who does Rudy look up too?
4. What does Elsa share with Liesel?
5. How do the German children react to war?
6. What does Liesel bring Max?
7. What do they build in the basement?
8. What gift does Max give Liesel?
9. What does Liesel do to help Max?
10. What do they hide Max under?
11. Why were they checking basements?
12. What was Rudy selected for?
13. What does Liesel do to help the calm the people in the air raid shelter?
14. What does Liesel do in the crowd of Jews?
15. What happened to Heaven street?
16. What did Rudy want to say to Liesel?
17. Who came back for Liesel?
18. Hans and Rosa, Liesel’s foster parents, are a contrast in personality. Did your feelings toward Hans and Rosa change as the story progressed?
19. Rudy, the Aryan ideal with blue eyes and “hair the color of a lemon,” worships the black American track and field star Jesse Owens. Rudy even goes so far as to charcoal his face and run through town to emulate his hero. Why do you think Zusak (the author) has Rudy do this? What is Zusak (the author) trying to demonstrate?
20. Why was Liesel given up by her mother?

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