

## Journal One Exemplar

### *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr

Who is the narrator of the story? How does this impact the book?

*All the Light We Cannot See* is told in an omniscient point of view; mainly from the perspective of Marie-Laure or Werner, but other characters' views are also shown. This impacts the book in a positive way, in my opinion because as the reader, I get to see things from different perspectives and further understand and connect with not only the main characters, but also some of the more secondary characters. Plus, I get to learn things from one character's perspective that I wouldn't have known otherwise; for example, "The locksmith tells himself that the diamond he carries is not real... And yet he stares at it, he cannot keep his thoughts from the question: *Could it be?*" (p. 90). Here I learned that Marie-Laure's father carries the Sea of Flames, though it's uncertain if it's the real one, and the locksmith's inner thoughts are revealed. The fact that I now know of this, adds dramatic irony and anticipation to the plot.

Name and describe the main character (physically and emotionally) and give your own impression of him/her.

Werner Pfennig is an intelligent orphan who grows up in Zollverein, a small mining town, along with his sister. Werner has blue eyes and snow-white hair, and while he isn't the most physically strong, he is extremely curious and smart. He is also very close with his sister, Jutta, and obviously cares about her and her safety. This can be seen when she's listening to the radio and he asks, "Are you listening to something

you're not supposed to be listening to?" (p. 73), and when she asks why he cares; he answers, "It's dangerous, is why I care" (p. 73).

My first impression of Werner was that he is a very curious boy even from a young age. It's very evident when he regularly asks the directress of the orphanage, Frau Elena, a slew of questions such as, "Why do we get hiccups, Frau Elena?" or "If the moon is so big, Frau Elena, how come it looks so little?" (p. 25). I also think he is very hopeful, and even naïve, considering he dreams of becoming something more than the coal miner he is condemned to be and his hope to live happily ever after with his sister is evident when he tells her, "maybe I'll learn something; maybe they'll teach me to be a proper engineer. Maybe I can learn to fly an airplane...I'll fly us west, you and me, Frau Elena too if she wants" (p. 133). However, I do think Werner is very innocent so far, and again, quite naïve; he refuses to see a different perspective when his sister asks, "Is it right," Jutta says, "to do something only because everyone else is doing it?" (p. 133), and he reasons that since she is a child, she doesn't know anything which is troubling. I also feel uneasy about Werner due to the fact that he joins the institute Schulpforta because of the concerning morals being taught there, but I understand that this is Werner's chance—his chance to become something more than a coal mine worker.

Describe the relationship between two characters and the significance to the story.

The relationship between Marie-Laure and her father is extraordinarily strong. By what I have read so far, Marie-Laure's father is extremely devoted to his daughter; crafting a model of Paris; helping her memorize the streets and telling her, "You can do

this, Marie” (p. 37). He is always there to guide and support her. He tells her, “[I] will never leave [you], not in a million years” (p. 31). In return, Marie-Laure deeply loves her father, but she seems to rely heavily on him due to the fact that he is always there to help her. This is very significant to the story because Marie-Laure’s father is a source of strength for her as she is to him. The two support each other and thus are able to endure the struggles taking place in their lives. I also have an inkling that Marie-Laure may have to learn to do things on her own considering the passages set at her great uncle's house during the year 1944 convey the idea that her father is absent, but I think she’ll still have her father as a source of strength whether he’s physically there to guide her or not.