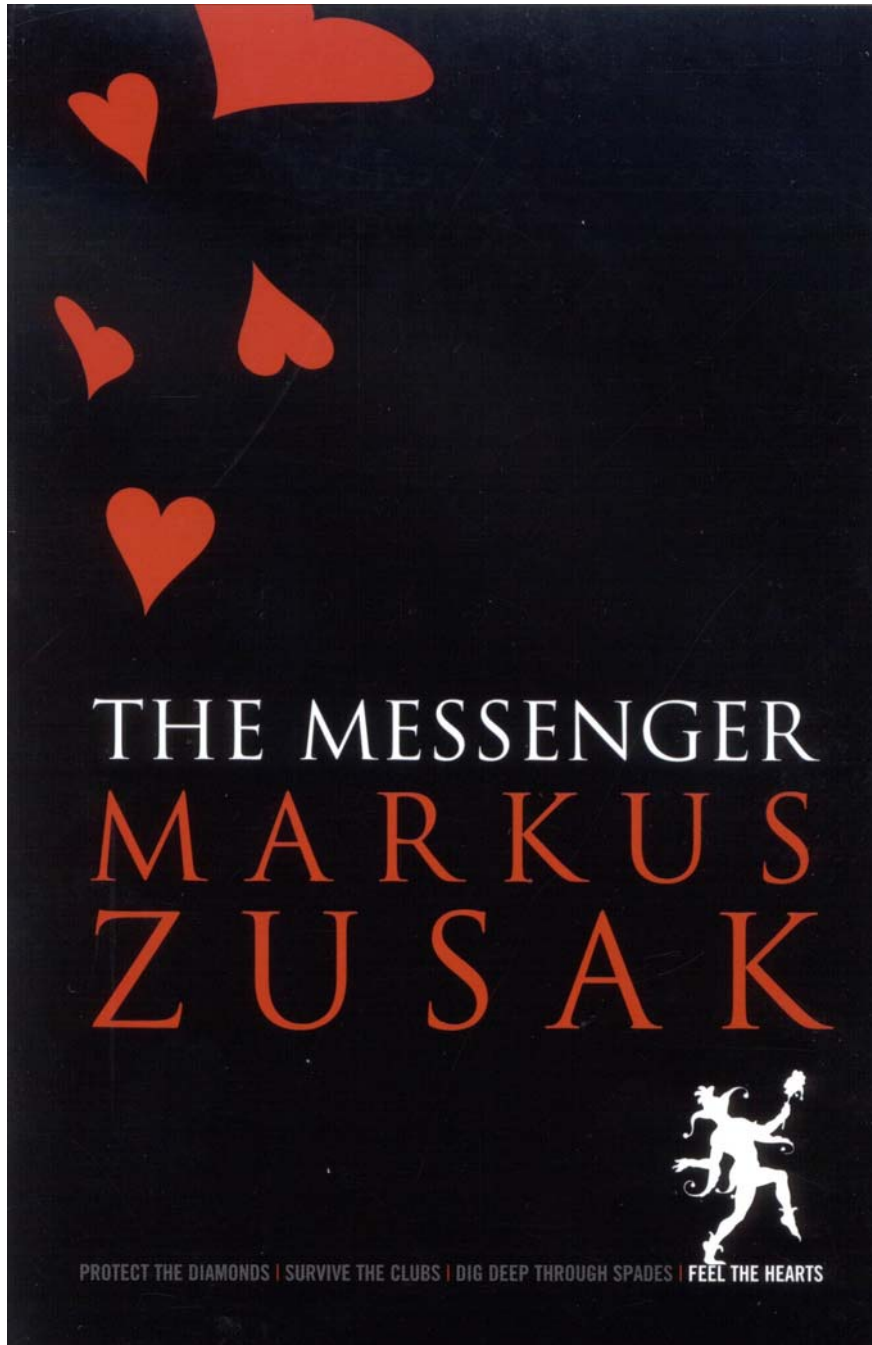




the messenger

Responding To Challenge





markus zusak

Responding To Challenge

These notes are divided into three sections.

Section One

– The Introduction

This is aimed at allowing students to become familiar with the different types of challenges within *The Messenger*, considering the characters, the aim of the novel, the different phases of meeting challenges and the different areas of peoples' lives that challenges are met.

Section Two

– Essay & Speech Questions

These questions are designed to reiterate these aspects of responding to challenge, as well as developing analysis of the text and writing skills.

Section Three

– Supplementary Material Suggestions

These suggestions look at using texts that are referred to in the novel to gain broader general knowledge, greater understanding of the diversity of challenges humans face, and a greater understanding of *The Messenger* and the characters and challenges in it.

For further background material or research ideas, referring to the standard teacher notes on the Pan Macmillan website might also be useful



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Section One

INTRODUCTION

QUESTION ONE: Make a list of at least ten challenges that Ed Kennedy faces.

QUESTION TWO: *The Messenger* is a book filled with many small and large challenges within one major challenge. Describe one of Ed's small challenges, one of his more difficult ones, and explain the overall challenge that Ed faces.

QUESTION THREE: Ed faces PHYSICAL, INTELLECTUAL and EMOTIONAL challenges. Divide a page into three sections and make a list of Ed's challenges in each. Also consider that some of Ed's challenges might be a combination of all three.

QUESTION FOUR: At times, Ed responds to challenge in a positive way. At others, he responds negatively. Find two instances of each and describe how each makes Ed feel about himself.

QUESTION FIVE: Has Ed Kennedy changed by the end of the book? Describe what he is like at the beginning and what he is like at the end of the book.

QUESTION SIX: Find five quotes about challenge in *The Messenger*.

QUESTION SEVEN: Find examples of Ed's challenges in these areas:

- overcoming fear
- family relationships
- friendship
- love
- selflessness

