Explore the ways a text’s genre has been constructed to represent particular social groups.

**Model incorporating all the ‘ingredients’ for a good introduction**

Historically, the ideologies of nationalism and racial hegemony have been mutually inclusive. Based on the unequal beliefs caused by Social Darwinism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, subsequent powerful elites have sought to forcefully assimilate, if not completely eradicate, any minority groups whose presence threatens their political dominance or undermines their economic power base. As a challenge to these, still current, ideological beliefs, the historical drama film *The Book Thief* (2013), based on Marcus Zusak’s novel of the same name, attempts to elicit a dominant viewing of the plight of both Jews and Communists during WW2 and challenge the Nazi party’s political manifesto of ethnic cleansing and anti-semitism. The text follows part of the central character, Leisel’s, journey through childhood and exposes how, during a time of war, everyone is touched by death. Ironically, it is the character or Death himself who underscores the value of life. Leisel’s character, having been abandoned by her Communist mother, is adopted by a German couple as the encroaching dominance of the Nazi party takes over every aspect of life in her new home town of Molching. While the film focuses on the notion that knowledge, through reading, is a powerful tool, hence the symbolism of its title, it also shows the modern audience that (in accordance with Immanuel Kant’s philosophy) all human beings are intrinsically valuable. The main social groups represented in the film are the Nazi soldiers and the ordinary townspeople, both Christians and Jews alike. Audiences are positioned to consider how ordinary German citizens were swept into a set of behaviours and beliefs, which would have been previously unthinkable because of the strength of the Nazi party’s ideological brainwashing. However, rather than only encouraging a blanket disgust for the actions for the Nazis, which is the usual modern perspective of the Holocaust, *The Book Th*ief also encourages viewers to consider the altruistic, heroic and selfless acts committed by ordinary German citizens.The filmic genre achieves this through the binary opposition created by characterisation, the plot’s literal and symbolic setting shown through particular mise-en-scenes and the film’s editing to highlight the juxtapositioning of social groups and the extremity of their actions.