1. Markus Zusak, an Australian author, wrote the New York Times best seller *The Book Thief* , was born on June 23, 1975. His mother lived in Germany and moved away before Markus was born. “We have these images of the straight-marching lines of boys and the ‘Heil Hitlers’ and this idea that everyone in Germany was in it together. But there still were rebellious children and people who didn’t follow the rules and people who hid Jews and other people in their houses. So there’s another side to Nazi Germany,” Markus said in an interview. He wanted to share the “rebellious” side of Nazi Germany. The side where people were kind at heart to help Jews and save their lives.
2. Markus Zusak published other books besides *The Book Thief.* He published *The Underdog, Fighting Ruben Wolfe, Getting the Girl, When Dogs Cry, The Messenger,* and *The Book Thief.* His books won multiple awards such as Michael J. Printz award for *The Messenger* and the #1 New York Times best seller for *The Book Thief.*
3. *The Book Thief* was a international best seller and he award winning books *The Messenger, Getting the Girl, The Underdog,* and *Fighting Ruben Wolfe* is also his biggest accomplishments.
4. Markus Zusak has been writing since he was sixteen. In his interview with the *Sydney Morning Herald,* he stated that since he was a kid, his mom used to tell him stories about Nazi Germany and he always wanted to share the story with someone else. He has also been asked numerous times of how he got the idea for his books. He states “I used to lie about this, but now I actually know — I started writing when I was sixteen. I’m well into my thirties now. I get my ideas from twenty years of thinking about it.”

http://www.randomhouse.com/features/markuszusak/author.html#5