

## Night Study Guide

### Chapter 1

#### Vocabulary

- Beadle – n. in Judaism refers to the caretaker of the synagogue
- Hasidic – adjective form of Hasidism, describes a branch of orthodox Judaism originating in Eastern Europe which focuses on the Rabbi as the conduit of God
- Cabbala – n. a system of Jewish teaching about God and the world based on mysticism and miracles
- Talmud – n. the authoritative body of Jewish tradition
- Mysticism – n. the belief that knowledge of God, spiritual truth, and ultimate reality can best be understood through subjective experience such as insight or intuition
- Zionism – n. an international movement originally for the establishment of a Jewish national or religious community in Palestine and later for support of modern Israel.
- Fascism/Fascist – n/adj. a political movement that puts the nation and often race above the individual and that stands for an autocratic government led by a dictator and characterized by strict economic and social regulation.
- ghetto – n. comes from the Venetian word for “slag” and was originally used to refer to a foundry where slag was stored on the same island where the Jewish community lived. During the Holocaust, Jews in Nazi-occupied territory were forced to live in segregated portions of town known as ghettos. Today, it refers to portions of a city where minorities live, especially because of social or economic pressure.

#### Allusions

- Horthy – the reigning leader of Hungary before and during WWII
- Nyilas – Hungarian Nazi Party
- Gestapo – German secret police
- Passover – a holiday held during the first month of Jewish calendar, celebrating the Israelites liberation from the Egyptians after God sent the plagues upon the Egyptians, the tenth of which was the slaughtering of the first-born of each household. Passover, then, refers specifically to the Angel of Death passing over the homes of the Israelites.
- Maimonides – the preeminent medieval Jewish scholar, also known as Rambam.
- Boches – n. an offensive slang word used to refer to German soldiers during WWI and WWII.

#### Literary/Rhetorical Terms

- First Person Point of View or Narration – a story in which the narrator speaks in the first person as he relates the tale. The narrator may or may not be the protagonist.
- Allusion – a reference to a text, historical figure, event, or place that the writer expects the reader to understand
- Metaphor – a comparison between two dissimilar things without using like or as
- Simile – a comparison between dissimilar things using like or as
- Mood – the feeling created by the setting, characters, or action of a work

#### Essential Questions

1. What kinds of responsibilities do members of a community have for one another?

## Getting Things Straight

1. Describe Moshe the Beadle.
2. In what year does this story begin? How old was the narrator at that time?
3. Describe the narrator's family.
4. Why does Moshe say he prays and what kinds of prayers does he make?
5. When the narrator and Moshe reunite after a separation of several months, what story does Moshe tell about the deportees? How did the townspeople of Sighet respond?
6. What was the attitude of the people of Sighet in the Spring of 1944?
7. What happened around Passover in 1944?
8. Describe the ghettos.
9. What is the peoples' initial reaction to the ghettos?
10. How much time were the Jews of Sighet given to prepare to be deported? What were they permitted to take with them?
11. What event caused the narrator to witness his father's weeping for the first time in his life?
12. Why were there no Hungarian police present at the expulsion?

## Delving In

1. In several places as the situation in Sighet begins to grow tense and then becomes a living nightmare, Wiesel says that the overall mood among the people was not bad, that things returned to normal, or that they got used to the situation. Why does he emphasize this aspect of their experience?
2. Wiesel mentions three times when he and his family could have been spared from the Holocaust. Why does he mention these instances as he recounts his tale?
3. Throughout this chapter, Wiesel emphasizes night falling on three separate occasions. How does his emphasis on nightfall affect the mood of the story?

## Delve-In Response Graphic Organizer

**Claim** (including the author and book title):

**Quote #1:** (Introduce the quote before you quote. Use only the words you need).

**Quote #1 Analysis:** (Explain. How does the quote “prove” your point?)

**Quote #2:**

**Quote #2 Analysis:**

**Quote #3:**

**Quote #3 Analysis:**

**Concluding Sentence:** (Restate your claim).

## Delve-In Response Graphic Organizer – Night Model

**Claim** (including the author and book title):

Wiesel suggests that it is human nature to adjust to the circumstances of our lives and create routines in order to protect ourselves from the pain of reality

**Quote #1 Introduction and Analysis:**

For example Wiesel describes the mood of the people of Sighet after the deportation of foreign Jews as normal.

**Quote #1:** (Introduce the quote before you quote. Use only the words you need).

Wiesel says, “Several days passed. Several weeks. Several months. Life had returned to normal. A wind of calmness and reassurance blew through our houses.” (4)

**Quote #1 Analysis:** (Explain. How does the quote “prove” your point?)

Before the deportation of foreign Jews, Sighet had been untouched by the war; this was the first time it directly affected their lives. And yet they forgot their absent friends and even felt calm and reassured only months later

**Quote #2 Introduction and Analysis:**

When the two ghettos are set up in Sighet Wiesel says that the people quickly acclimated.

**Quote #2:**

He writes, “Little by little life returned to normal.”(9)

**Quote #2 Analysis:**

Here the facts of his reality are anything but normal, and yet as people continued in their daily existence they fell back into patterns and routines that provided a sense of normalcy and security

**Quote #3 Introduction and Analysis:**

Wiesel stresses the way people were able to adjust their state of mind and define a new normal when he describes the time he spent in the little ghetto awaiting deportation.

**Quote #3:**

He writes, “The people’s morale was not too bad; we were beginning to get used to the situation.” (18)

**Quote #3 Analysis:**

This is almost an unbelievable assertion. Wiesel has just described how he and his family and friends had lost their homes and were essentially squatting in the homes of those already deported, knowing that any day, they, too, would be shipped away from their homeland. And yet somehow, their morale was not bad. They were adjusting.

**Concluding Sentence: (Restate your claim).** Wiesel’s descriptions of the way people coped with the brutal reality that they were losing their homes and surrendering themselves into the hands of people who hated them and who wanted to exterminate their race suggest the natural tendency of the human mind to build illusions of safety in times of peril. Yet his tone seems critical, implying that if he and his neighbors had not blinded themselves to the truth, they could have done something different.

## Writing a Delve-In Response, Organizing Your Ideas

**Follow this format for writing your delve-in responses. Getting this down will serve you well when it comes to write your literary analysis essay.**

Make your claim in one or two sentences, including the author and book title. *[Although the first Chapter of Night by Elie Wiesel describes the trauma the Jews of Sighet experienced as the Nazis came to power and ultimately expelled them from their homes, Wiesel emphasizes the fact that with each successive hardship, the people adjusted and found normalcy. Thus Wiesel suggests that it is human nature to adjust to the circumstances of our lives and create routines in order to protect ourselves from the pain of reality.]* Use a passage from the text – *quotation* or *paraphrase* - to illustrate your point. Document appropriately. Explain the passage, telling how it illustrates your point. *[For example after the deportation of foreign Jews, an event that jolted the community of Sighet with the reality of war, Wiesel says, “Several days passed. Several weeks. Several months. Life had returned to normal. A wind of calmness and reassurance blew through our houses.” (4) Before the deportation of foreign Jews, Sighet had been untouched by the war; this was the first time it directly affected their lives. And yet they forgot their absent friends and even felt calm and reassured only months later.]* Using a proper *transition* or *connection*, identify another passage – perhaps quoting only part of a sentence; document appropriately. *[Similarly, when the two ghettos are set up in Sighet, segregating the Jews from the neighbors and causing people to have to leave their homes outside the designated areas, Wiesel says that the people quickly acclimated. He writes, “Little by little life returned to normal.” (9) Here the facts of his reality are anything but normal, and yet as people continued in their daily existence they fell back into patterns and routines that provided a sense of normalcy and security]* Using a proper *transition* or *connection*, identify another passage – perhaps quoting only part of a sentence; document appropriately. *[Wiesel again stresses the way people were able to adjust their state of mind and define a new normal when he describes the time he spent in the little ghetto awaiting deportation. He writes, “The people’s morale was not too bad; we were beginning to get used to the situation.” (18) This is almost an unbelievable assertion. Wiesel has just described how he and his family and friends had lost their homes and were essentially squatting in the homes of those already deported, knowing that any day, they, too, would be shipped away from their homeland. And yet somehow, their morale was not bad. They were adjusting.]* Make the connection between the passages and your theme/thesis. Conclude; don’t just stop. *[Wiesel’s descriptions of the way people coped with the brutal reality that they were losing their homes and surrendering themselves into the hands of people who hated them and who wanted to exterminate their race suggest the natural tendency of the human mind to build illusions of safety in times of peril. Indeed, facing the truth before them might have utterly crushed the spirits of many of the Jews of Sighet. While this may be a natural defense mechanism of the mind, Wiesel’s tone seems critical, implying that if he and his neighbors had not blinded themselves to the truth, they could have taken action to save themselves.]*

*Although the first Chapter of Night by Elie Wiesel describes the trauma the Jews of Sighet experienced as the Nazis came to power and ultimately expelled them from their homes, Wiesel emphasizes the fact that with each successive hardship, the people adjusted and found normalcy. Thus Wiesel suggests that it is human nature to adjust to the circumstances of our lives and create routines in order to protect ourselves from the pain of reality. For example after the deportation of foreign Jews, an event that jolted the community of Sighet with the reality of war, Wiesel says, "Several days passed. Several weeks. Several months. Life had returned to normal. A wind of calmness and reassurance blew through our houses." (4) Before the deportation of foreign Jews, Sighet had been untouched by the war; this was the first time it directly affected their lives. And yet they forgot their absent friends and even felt calm and reassured only months later. Similarly, when the two ghettos are set up in Sighet, segregating the Jews from the neighbors and causing people to have to leave their homes outside the designated areas, Wiesel says that the people quickly acclimated. He writes, "Little by little life returned to normal." (9) Here the facts of his reality are anything but normal, and yet as people continued in their daily existence they fell back into patterns and routines that provided a sense of normalcy and security. Wiesel again stresses the way people were able to adjust their state of mind and define a new normal when he describes the time he spent in the little ghetto awaiting deportation. He writes, "The people's morale was not too bad; we were beginning to get used to the situation." (18) This is almost an unbelievable assertion. Wiesel has just described how he and his family and friends had lost their homes and were essentially squatting in the homes of those already deported, knowing that any day, they, too, would be shipped away from their homeland. And yet somehow, their morale was not bad. They were adjusting. Wiesel's descriptions of the way people coped with the brutal reality that they were losing their homes and surrendering themselves into the hands of people who hated them and who wanted to exterminate their race suggest the natural tendency of the human mind to build illusions of safety in times of peril. Indeed, facing the truth before them might have utterly crushed the spirits of many of the Jews of Sighet. While this may be a natural defense mechanism of the mind, Wiesel's tone seems critical, implying that if he and his neighbors had not blinded themselves to the truth, they could have taken action to save themselves.*

Night Study Guide  
Chapter 2

Vocabulary

- Pestilential – adj, of or relating to pestilence, which is something harmful or deadly
- Truncheon – n. club, as in a police officer's billy club

Allusions/References

- Birkenau – the German translation of the name of a small Polish village destroyed during the German invasion of Poland. Birkenau was part of Auschwitz (Auschwitz was divided into three parts; Birkenau was part II), and was the largest extermination camp. It was the site of the deaths of 960,000 Jews, 75,000 Poles, and some 19,000 Roma.
- Auschwitz – the largest of the concentration and extermination camps during WWII. The camp was part of land that Germany claimed after invading Poland. Auschwitz I was the administrative area of the entire camp and Auschwitz III was a labor camp.

Literary Terms

- Foreshadowing

Getting Things Straight

1. When did the narrator and his neighbors realize they were being taken out of Hungary?
2. Who was Madame Schachter? How did she upset the passengers on the train? How did the passengers stop her from this behavior?
3. What rumors did they hear about Auschwitz when they finally arrived?

Delving In

- This story is Wiesel's first-hand account of true events, and yet the story of Madame Schachter seems unbelievable. Why do you think he included this anecdote in his memoir?

## Night Study Guide, Chapter 3

### Vocabulary

- Noncommissioned officer – a low ranking officer who was appointed from among the enlisted men (as opposed to a commissioned officer, rank of second lieutenant or higher)
- Unremittingly -- constantly
- Antechamber – a waiting room
- Convalescent home – a place where people go to recover from illness
- Colic – an acute attack of abdominal pain
- Compulsory – required, mandatory
- Wizen – shrunk, wrinkled

### Allusions/Reference

- SS – elite police and military units kept who fought alongside the German military. The SS was based on racist Nazi ideology and was fiercely loyal to Hitler. The SS was responsible for the vast majority of the crimes against humanity committed during WWII
- Dr. Mengele – An SS officer and physician at Auschwitz-Birkenau, known for supervising selection and for performing human experiments in the camps
- Kaddish – Jewish prayer for the dead
- *Sonder-Kommando* – concentration camp prisoners made to work in the crematories
- Kapos – privileged prisoner in the camp in charge of supervising other prisoners and/or leading work details
- Gypsy – this term is now considered derogatory. It refers to the Roma people from Central and Eastern Europe who often lived a nomadic life, travelling from place to place. Like the Jews, they were targeted by the Nazis for “extermination”
- Buna -- a sub-camp of Auschwitz

### Literary Terms

- Irony of the Situation: when the opposite happens of what the audience/reader expects
- Verbal Irony: the literal meaning is the opposite of the intended meaning

### Getting Things Straight

1. What eight words stand out in Wiesel’s mind from the last moment he saw his mother?
2. What were Elie’s and his father’s actual ages? What did they tell the SS their ages were? Why did they lie?
3. How did the older men calm the younger ones down when they learned from some of the prisoners where they were?
4. What profession did Elie claim when he spoke to Dr. Mengele?
5. What caused Elie to begin to question his faith in God?
6. Who is Bela Katz?
7. What change came over Elie after his first night in the camp?
8. Why was Elie allowed to keep his new shoes?
9. What is ironic about the death’s head mark on the electric fencing?
10. What is ironic about the sign over the entrance to Auschwitz?
11. What block were Elie and his father assigned to? Describe the prisoner in charge when they arrived.
12. What number was Elie assigned?
13. Why did Elie lie to Stein?

### Delving In

1. Throughout chapter 3, Wiesel points out a number of ironic details. How do these details contribute to his tone?

## Night Chapter 4 Study Guide

Allusions/References: Using the context in the chapter, define each of the following in your own words:

- Haifa
- Aryan
- Lagerkapo
- Oberkapo
- *Pipel*

### Getting Things Straight

- What advice were Elie and his companions given by veteran prisoners at Buna?
- What block were Elie and his father assigned at Buna? What sort of work were they forced to do?
- What was ironic about the dentist who was supposed to extract Elie's gold crown? Why was the dentist thrown in prison?
- What feelings came over Elie when Idek beat his father?
- How did Franek punish Elie for not giving him his gold crown?
- Why did Idek whip Elie?
- Who was the only victim of the air raid on Buna?
- What did the two prisoners who helped with the hanging get as a reward?
- Wiesel says he saw many hangings in the camp, but after one in particular he says he recalls "the soup tasted of corpses." What was unusual about that hanging?

### Delving In

- Wiesel uses frequent sentence fragments as part of his writing style. How do these sentence fragments contribute to the tone and mood of the story?
- In this chapter, and in the preceding one, Wiesel mentions times when he stood by and watched his father being punished. What was his reaction to these events? Is it what the reader would expect?

## Night Study Guide Chapter 5

### Vocabulary

- Lamentation
- Mirage
- Countenance
- Atonement
- Reprieve
- Interminable
- Emaciated
- Crucible
- Decisive
- Fortnight

### Allusions/References

- Rosh Hashanah
- Adam and Eve
- Noah
- Sodom
- Yom Kippur
- *musulman*
- *Achtung*
- Calvary

### Getting Things Straight

1. What was strange about the last day of the year in this particular year?
2. Describe Elie's state of mind and thoughts during the Rosh Hashanah prayer service.
3. What is ironic about people in this Chapter wishing one another a happy New Year?
4. Why did people debate whether or not to fast on Yom Kippur? What was Elie's decision?
5. What "New Year's gift" did the SS give the prisoners?
6. What advice did the head of the block give regarding selection?
7. After he finds out his father's number was taken at the selection, what is Elie referring to when he says "the inheritance"?
8. What is ironic in the statement, "How well they were treating me! Like an orphan!"
9. Why did Elie go to the hospital?
10. What does Weisel mean when he says rumors of the front moving closer were "an injection of morphine"?
11. Why did Elie leave the hospital early? In retrospect, was his decision a good one?

### Delving In

1. Like the earlier chapters, chapter 5 focuses on many specific nights in the camp. Find three examples from Chapter 5 where Wiesel comments on night or nightfall. How does this focus on night effect the tone of the story?

## Night Chapter 6

Vocabulary: Identify THREE words in the chapter that you cannot define. Write the words here and look them up.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

### Allusions/Reference

1. Gleiwitz

### Getting Things Straight

1. How did Elie motivate himself to keep running?
2. Describe Rabbi Eliahou's effect on the prisoners. What sad event did Elie witness relating to the Rabbi?
3. Summarize Elie's recollection of Juliek.
4. How did Elie save his father from the selection when Gleiwitz was evacuated?

## Chapter 7

Vocabulary: Identify THREE words in the chapter that you cannot define. Write the words here and look them up.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

### Allusions/Reference

- Aden
- Buchenwald

### Getting Things Straight

1. What is ironic in the prisoners' reaction to the order to throw the corpses from the train into the field.
2. Find two examples of metaphors from this chapter. Copy them down in your notes.
3. What is the effect of Elie's descriptions of the cries of the dying prisoners?
4. How many of the prisoners originally loaded into the train car survived the journey to Buchenwald?

### Delving In

In this chapter, Elie includes an anecdote about the Parisienne throwing money to children at Aden. Find two other examples from the novel where Elie includes memories from his life after the war. Why do you think he includes these memories in his narrative?

Night Chapters 8 - 9

Vocabulary: Identify THREE words in the chapter that you cannot define. Write the words here and look them up.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Getting Things Straight

1. Describe Elie's interactions with and feeling about his father in Chapter 8.
2. What happened that altered the SS plans to evacuate Buchenwald?
3. What final image does Elie leave with the reader? What effect does it have upon you?