

Night – Elie Wiesel

Discussion Topics/Questions: answers should be typed MLA format.

Read over questions before you begin reading the novel and answer the questions as you go.

1. Make a list of the incidents that foreshadow the dangers that are coming to the people of Sighet. Explain why you believe the people of Sighet, including Eliezer's family, do not believe that they are in danger.
2. Explain Wiesel's purpose in including Madame Schächter in the memoir. What function does she serve?
3. Throughout the memoir, Wiesel uses time to pace the story. In fact, on several occasions he refers to Jewish holidays. How do the Jews in the concentration camps attempt to observe their religion in spite of the brutality they face on a daily basis?
4. Discuss Eliezer's character and the transition he makes from the young boy in Sighet to the man who is liberated.
5. Elie Wiesel's story does not focus solely on the negative images of the concentration camp. At certain points in the memoir, he writes about events that gave him hope.
6. Chronicle both the events and emotions that led Eliezer to wish for death and those that encouraged him to keep fighting to live.
7. Compare the language in the first half of the memoir with the language in the second half. How does the language illustrate the characters physical and emotional changes?
You may address other characters, such as Eliezer's father and the other prisoners.
8. Wiesel describes people who give up hope during their time in the concentration camp. Find examples of passages that illustrate the reasons why people choose to lose hope. Why are some people able to persevere and others not?
9. How does Wiesel demonstrate the dark side of human nature, in both the German

soldiers and the Jewish prisoners? Describe the rhetorical and narrative techniques that he uses.

10. How does Wiesel's relationship with God change throughout the memoir?

11. Analyze the relationship between Eliezer and his father. Be sure to cite instances that demonstrate a shift in the relationship.

12. The title of this memoir alludes to one of the themes present in the memoir. Trace scenes of darkness and light as they occur. Note the conflicts and emotions that are developed in each scene. Explain how the title relates to these scenes and how it functions as a theme.

13. Discuss whether or not this memoir can be read as a narrative about the loss of faith.

14. Animal imagery is used throughout the memoir. Trace the appearance of the imagery and what it comes to symbolize.

15. Complete a detailed character analysis of Eliezer. Indicate both his actions and his motives. Also, point out his state of mind and what significant actions of his own, or others, affected it.

16. Discuss how Elie Wiesel's life is represented through Eliezer.

17. Explain the function of violence, as it occurs in the memoir, as it relates to both the prisoners and the guards. Discuss whether or not you believe Eliezer was able to abstain from the brutality.