

Night Chapters 4-6

1. How could Elie have bribed the assistant to arrange for him to go with his father to a “good unit”?
2. Why doesn’t he try the bribe?
3. Where is music played in the camp?
4. Why can’t the musicians play Beethoven?
5. Why is Elie sent to the dentist?
6. Why is he so desperate to keep his tooth and why doesn’t he succeed in keeping it?
7. Who beats Elie in front of the French girl and why?
8. Why is she afraid to speak to him?
9. What advice does she give to Elie and what does this show about her?
10. Why does Idek beat Elie’s father?
11. Why is Elie angry at his father for getting beaten?
12. Why does Elie give his father “marching lessons”?
13. Why does Elie laugh at Idek and what is the result? What do the air raid sirens signify?
14. Why is this a particularly dangerous time for prisoners?
15. How is “terror stronger than hunger”?
16. How does the death of that one man affect Elie and how does he react when the air raid is over?
17. Who are some of the people who die on the gallows?
18. What phrase do many repeat before their deaths?
19. Why are people hanged rather than being shot or killed some other way?
20. Whose death affects Elie the most and why?
21. Why does Elie find the soup “excellent” after one execution, but tasting of “corpses” after another?
22. What is Rosh Hashanah?
23. Why do you suppose even “Kapos, functionaries of death” come to the Rosh Hashanah service?
24. What is going through Elie’s mind?
25. Is Elie in the minority when he “rebelled” inwardly and why does he call the place where the Jews meet to pray a “mirage” ?
26. What does Elie mean when he says of his father, “We had never understood each other so clearly”?
27. What is Yom Kippur?
28. Why doesn’t Elie fast?
29. What is the “fine New Year’s gift” the SS gives the prisoners ?
30. What advice does Elie get from the head of the block about avoiding selection?
31. What are Elie’s thoughts as he goes through the “race”?
32. What sorts of “presents” and “inheritance” gifts does Wiesel’s father give Elie and why?
33. Why does Elie return them to his father?
34. What does this show about how life changes when mere survival is a struggle?
35. What happens to many of the prisoners when they lose faith?
36. Why does Wiesel tell the story of Akiba Drumer—and how everyone forgets to say the Kaddish for him?
37. How does Wiesel end up in the hospital?
38. What decision is Wiesel faced with while he is in the hospital?
39. What is Elie’s choice and why does he choose this option?
40. Why is the camp being evacuated?
41. Why do the prisoners want the Russians to arrive first?
42. How does the “face of the camp” change on the morning of the evacuation (page 79)?
43. Why does the head of the block order the prisoners to clean the floor, and how do you think the prisoners feel about this task?
44. Reread the description of the evacuation at the end of the chapter. Why does the author choose to use a series of short sentences in this passage? What is the effect?