

***Night* Reading Guide**

Key Vocabulary

You may find this on quizzes and tests so it's important that you keep track of these words on your own.

abominable

encumbered

indifferent

anecdote

humane

perilous

degradation

impenetrable

sages

diplomacy

improvise

waif

Achtung

Kapo

Rosh Hashana

Aryan

Meister

Passover

Crematories

Messiah

Yom Kippur

Fascist

Nazi

Zionism

Gestapo

Rabbi

***Night* Journal Entries**

Because *Night* is a firsthand, straightforward, unadulterated account of the holocaust through the very eyes of Elie Weisel, it can be difficult to grasp the atrocities that we are reading. For that reason, I would like us to do **two-sided** journal entries for each chapter that we read.

First Side

You will be writing a **one paragraph response to your reading the chapter**. Some questions to get you started: How did reading the chapter make you feel? What is your reaction to the events in your chapter? How do you feel about the way Elie and others are treated? What was the most powerful part of this particular chapter?

Second Side

One of our primary talking points about this book is going to be Elie's change over the course of his experiences. As a young man, Elie was forced to change spiritually, emotionally, and physically because of the circumstances that he faced and the horrors that he witnessed. **As you read each chapter, think about his spiritual, emotional, and physical changes. In your journal, write one paragraph describing the changes you see in Elie during the chapter. Find two quotes that describe a change in his spiritual, emotional, or physical condition.**

Each journal entry should include:

1. One paragraph describing your reaction or feelings to the events of the chapter
2. One paragraph describing Elie's spiritual, emotional, or physical change
3. Two quotes, with page numbers, which show Elie's transformation

These paragraphs should be thoughtful and intelligent, with at least 6-7 sentences each!

***Night* Discussion Guide**

Chapter 1 (pages 3-22)

1. What kind of a person is Elie?

2. Why don't the people believe Moshe's story?

3. Name at least two other instances in which the Jews of Sighet push truth and fear aside and choose to ignore something or believe something else.
4. When Elie's family goes to the "little ghetto" their old servant offers to help them escape and hide. Why do they refuse the offer?

Reaction/Reflection	How has Elie Changed?

Chapter 2 (pages 23-28)

6. How does the opening scene in the railroad car show differing responses to a crisis situation?

7. List two or three phrases Madame Schachter speaks to foreshadow the arrival at Birkenau.

Reaction/Reflection	How has Elie Changed?

Chapter 3 (pages 29-43)

8. On page 31, Elie tells of how some of the Jews talk of fighting back. Why don't they?

9. Explain this passage: "Never shall I forget those moments which murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to ashes ..." (page 34)

10. Explain the statement: "The student of Talmud, the child that I was, had been consumed by the flames. All that was left was the shape that looked like me. A dark flame had entered my soul and devoured it." (page 37)

11. When Elie's father was hit, Elie does not try to defend him. He says, "I had watched and kept silent. Only yesterday, I would have dug my nails into this criminal's flesh." (39) How could such a change occur?

12. Elie says, "How I would sympathize with Job!" Explain who Job (Old Testament) was and why Elie would say this.

13. What is A-7713? What is the purpose of this number do you think?

14. Why does Elie lie to the old family friend? Do you approve of his lie? Why?

15. What is the "selection", and how are people "selected"?

Reaction/Reflection	How has Elie Changed?

Chapter 4 (pages 47-65)

Elie portrays the Nazi supervisors as morally corrupt. List two examples which demonstrate their degenerate behavior.

16.

17.

18. Elie tries hard to keep his gold crown from being removed. Why does he finally part with it?

19. When Elie is beaten, what advice does the French girl give him? Is it good advice? Why?

20. On page 54, Elie describes the beating of his father by Idek. What is Elie's reaction? What does it say about him?

21. How do the other prisoners feel toward the man who crawls out to the soup cauldrons? What does this tell us about the emotional state of the prisoners?

22. Why do the prisoners cheer the air raids even though they could be killed?

23. What makes the last scene (the boy's hanging) so horrible for Elie and the readers?

24. When someone asks, "Where is God," another person says (page 65), "This is where—hanging here from this gallows..." What does he mean? What does this tell us about the people at the concentration camp at this point?

Reaction/Reflection	How has Elie Changed?

Chapter 5 (pages 66-84)

25. On pages 66-68, Elie talks about his reaction to the Rosh Hashanah service. He says at one point, "I Yes, man is stronger, greater than God." Explain what you think he means.

26. "It was Yom Kippur year around." (page 69) What does he mean by this?

27. What point is made about survival for some prisoners through the example of Akiba Drumer?

28. One of Elie’s neighbors in the hospital says he has “more faith in Hitler than in anyone else.” (page 81) What does he mean? How is this statement ironic?

29. When the camp is about to be evacuated, Elie has a choice. What is the choice, why does he decide to do what he does, and what does he find out later about the option he did not take?

Reaction/Reflection	How has Elie Changed?

Chapter 6 (pages 85-97)

30. What thought keeps Elie from quitting during the long evacuation march?

31. Why is Elie glad he did not tell Rabbi Eliahou about seeing the Rabbi's son during the march?

32. Elie's story is sometimes punctuated with strange, dreamlike moments. Such a moment in this chapter is an incident involving Juliek. What happens?

Reaction/Reflection	How has Elie Changed?

Chapter 7 (pages 98-103)

33. What does the episode about the German citizens throwing bread reveal about the people who do the throwing AND about the prisoners who go after it?
34. When they finally arrive at Buchenwald, Elie gives us an idea of the survival rate. If so few survived (and assuming the Germans did not expected many starved and beaten prisoners to survive in the first place), why do you suppose they even bothered with this march? Why not just leave them behind?

Reaction/Reflection	How has Elie Changed?

Chapter 8 (pages 104-112)

35. What does Elie mean when he says, “Just like Rabbi Eliahou’s son, I had not passed the test?” (page 107)
36. What are the circumstances surrounding the death of Elie’s father?
37. Why when his father dies does Elie think that deep inside, he (Elie) is feeling “ free at last” about himself? (page 112)

Reaction/Reflection	How has Elie Changed?

Chapter 9 (113-115)

38. How is the camp liberated?

39. Why does no one think of revenge after the liberation?

40. Why do you suppose Elie called this book **Night**?

41. Which of Elie's experiences do you feel is the worst? Why?

42. Genocide has a long legacy in human history. We like to think of ourselves as "civilized", yet inhumanity on this planet continues. List some current examples of inhumanity --- in the "outside world" and close to home.

43. Could a holocaust such as Elie survived take place today? Explain.

44. What can any of us do to prevent inhumanity, even genocide? How does this book help?

Reaction/Reflection	How has Elie Changed?

