

SENIOR THEOLOGY SUMMER READING (Mystery of Suffering, Death & Resurrection) 2010
Night by Elie Wiesel

Name: _____

Teacher: Mr. John Mullen

Directions: All of the following questions should be in your own handwriting. Write clearly and answer questions thoroughly (at least 3-5 sentences). On the first day of class your teacher will ask you for this completed form. There will be no exceptions. You may use additional looseleaf paper.

1. Describe Wiesel's community at the beginning of the story. How does young Elie view the world and his place in it?
2. What are some incidents that suggest or foreshadow the coming danger to the Sighet Jews? Why doesn't the community believe it is in danger?
3. What are the conditions on the Jews' train journey? How do the Jews react to Madame Schächter's behavior? What does this reveal about human nature?
4. What connection might there be between Madame Schächter's treatment on the train and possible future events in the concentration camp? What are some other ways that Wiesel foreshadows, or hints at, the horrors ahead?
5. Describe the conditions first at the Birkenau reception center, then at Auschwitz, and later at Buna. How does Wiesel's relationship with his father change during this time?
6. What events lead to the two hangings Wiesel describes? How does Wiesel feel about his evening meal after each hanging? What do his reactions suggest about how he is changing?
7. What are some ways that Wiesel and the other Jews at the camps try to observe their religion? How have Wiesel's feelings about God changed since his captivity began?
8. Describe the conditions first at the Birkenau reception center, then at Auschwitz, and later at Buna. How does Wiesel's relationship with his father change during this time?
9. In the camps, Wiesel must struggle to stay alive and to remain human. In your opinion, how well does he succeed with his struggles?
10. There are several discussions about resistance by the prisoners. Why do you think there was no large scale effort to resist?
11. Why do Wiesel and his father leave Buna? How do they respond to the circumstances of the forced march?
12. What happens between Rabbi Eliahou and his son? What does Wiesel's reaction to this incident reveal about his relationship with God?
13. How does Wiesel treat his father during the journey to Buchenwald and later during Chlomo's illness? How does Wiesel's link to his father affect his will to survive?
14. Wiesel believes that remembering the Holocaust will help to ensure that this type of atrocity does not occur in the future. Do you think learning about historical events can guide people to behave differently?