Elie Wiesel’s *Night*: Chapter Response Questions



1. Chapter 1: Explain why writing from an objective point of view was necessary for Elie Wiesel’s completion of his memoir. Why did it take courage for Wiesel to begin with Moshe the Beadle?
2. Chapter 2: Explain your own reasoning regarding the strange incident with Madame Schachter. Was it a hallucination, prophecy, vision, or a diving warning? Why did Wiesel choose to include this incident in his memoir? Is this incident somehow linked to his faith?
3. Chapter 3: How does the connotation of night (nighttime) help to develop the symbolism of night (the absence of God)? Use our class discussion and examples from the text to explain this question in more detail.
4. Video: “The Devil’s Arithmetic” uses the compelling literary device of casting the main character into a parallel universe. Explore the use of this device in terms of purpose. In what ways could this fictional experience actually prevent history from repeating?

\*\*\*For those who did not watch the video, watch the following video about the concentration camps and then answer the following question: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=449ZOWbUkf0>

Is the Auschwitz camp shown on the short clip similar to the one you pictured in your mind? How was Hitler able to build such a camp during the Great Depression? You may have to do a bit of research.

1. Chapter 4: In what ways was the hanging of the young Pipel the ultimate challenge to young Elie’s spiritual faith? How does the symbolism of “night” compare to the symbolism of the young Pipel?
2. Chapter 5: Explain the following statement using examples from the text: *During the Holocaust, Elie Wiesel changes from a spiritual, sensitive little boy to a spiritually dead, unemotional man.*
3. Video-“One Survivor Remembers” What insights into life do you believe that Elie Wiesel and Gerda Weissmann have gained as a result of their experiences during the Holocaust? How has this overall experience shaped their perspective on life? Their chosen careers? You may have to do a bit of research regarding the persons Wiesel and Weissmann have become in their later lives.
4. Chapter 6: Choose one of the following literary terms: motif, personification, and hyperbole to answer the next question. How was Elie able to effectively explain what happened to him using this device? Why is figurative language so helpful in explaining different situations?
5. Chapter 7: Why did many prisoners become self-centered and cruel as a way to survive while others, like Elie, remained humane? Could their personalities before the Holocaust have an effect? In what ways would you change if you had to experience concentration camp life? Be as honest as you can.
6. Video-“Interview with Oprah & Elie” - Why would Elie Wiesel want to return to Auschwitz, the place of much of his sorrow? Why is he willing to share his deepest thoughts with Oprah and broadcast them before millions of others? How does this interview help others to remember, to want to promote change?
7. Chapter 8 & 9: What were the three ways Elie’s father could have died? Did Elie’s reaction to his father’s death surprise you? Explain. Can you blame Elie for his reaction or was it understandable?