

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ English Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

# Night

Elie Wiesel



**Bring this packet and your copy of the novel to class every day.**



**Note:** The abbreviations below will be used to distinguish between the most common editions of Night.

Look for the name of the publishing company on the spine of your book.

H = Holt, Rinehart, and Winston

B = Bantam

W = Hill and Wang (2006 Translation)



Night Pre-Reading Questions

**Directions:** Respond to each of the following questions in three or more complete sentences.

1. Would you ever do anything to harm one of your parents or a family member?

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2. Are there times when it is best to stay silent when you see something that is wrong?

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3. Are people who associate with criminals just as guilty as those who commit the crime?

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4. Would you do *anything* in order to live? How about to save someone you love?

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Post Reading Entry

Choose one of your responses to reflect on. Now that you have finished Night, describe how your perspective has changed.

# The Five Stages of Grief

People grieve in many different ways. Some people are able to move on quickly and some go through a grieving process. According to Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, there are five stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance.

Below is an example of someone's grieving process after losing their beloved dog:

1. Denial – I felt like he wasn't really gone and I would see him in the backyard if I just opened the door. I thought I could call a specialist to fix him.
2. Anger – I felt it was my fault that he was sick. I was so angry that he could die so young and from such a curable disease. Then, I was mad at my husband for not reminding me about his medication and taking him to the vet on time.
3. Bargaining – I felt that if I could just find enough money to pay the vet, I would be able to buy back his health.
4. Depression – I cried myself to sleep for two nights. I didn't want to talk about it. I couldn't talk about it. My family just made it worse by calling and saying they were sorry. (I look back now and appreciate it, but at the time it really hurt).
5. Acceptance – I realized that he was gone and that I should move on. Scout made me so happy and I know that he would still want me to be happy. It was a decision to change. I am still sad about it sometimes, but I understand and accept the loss.

## The Five Stages of Grief, continued

Below, describe your own example. This is an **OPTIONAL** assignment. Your entry will only be viewed by me unless you wish to share with the class.

Incident: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Denial: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Anger: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Bargaining: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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4. Depression: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Acceptance: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Concepts to Own – Judaism

1. **Cabbala / Kabbalah:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. **Hasidism:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. **Kaddish:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. **Maimonides:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. **Passover:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. **Pentecost:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. **Phylacteries:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. **Rabbi:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. **Rosh Hashanah:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. **Synagogue:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Concepts to Own – Judaism, continued

11. **Talmud:** \_\_\_\_\_

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12. **Torah:** \_\_\_\_\_

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13. **Yom Kippur:** \_\_\_\_\_

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14. **Zionism:** \_\_\_\_\_

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15. **Zohar:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## Concepts to Own – World War II and the Holocaust

1. **Adolf Hitler:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. **Anti-Semitism:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. **Aryan:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. **Boche:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. **Concentration camp:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. **Death camp:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. **Final Solution:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. **Genocide:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. **Gestapo:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. **Ghetto:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Concepts to Own – World War II and the Holocaust, continued

11. **Holocaust:** \_\_\_\_\_

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12. **Kapo:** \_\_\_\_\_

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13. **Pogrom:** \_\_\_\_\_

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14. **Red Army:** \_\_\_\_\_

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15. **Schutzstaffel (SS):** \_\_\_\_\_

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## Major Characters

**Directions:** Use the list below to keep track of the characters in the book. Each time you come across a new character or new information about a character, add to the description.

1. Moché (Moishe / Moshe) the Beadle: \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Eliezer (Elie) Wiesel: \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Schlomo Wiesel: \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Mrs. Wiesel: \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Hilda, Bea, and Tzipora: \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Madame (Mrs.) Schächter: \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Stein of Antwerp: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Major Characters, continued

8. Yossi and Tibi: \_\_\_\_\_

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9. The French girl: \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Franek: \_\_\_\_\_

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11. Idek: \_\_\_\_\_

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12. The pipel: \_\_\_\_\_

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13. Dr. Mengele: \_\_\_\_\_

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14. Akiba Drumer: \_\_\_\_\_

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15. Zalman: \_\_\_\_\_

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16. Rabbi Eliahou: \_\_\_\_\_

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17. Juliek: \_\_\_\_\_

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18. Meir Katz: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Words to Own

## Parts I and II (Sighet to Buna)

1. **abstraction:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. **base:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. **bestial:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. **compulsory:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. **constraint:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. **edict:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. **emigration:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. **expound:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. **incite:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. **lucidity:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. **nocturnal:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. **reprieve:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. **sanctity:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. **unremitting:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. **wizened:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Words to Own Worksheet

**Directions:** Choose the letter of the word or phrase that most nearly defines the *italicized* word in each excerpt from Night. Use capital letters.

1. \_\_\_\_ My father was telling them anecdotes and *expounding* his own views on the situation.  
A. stating angrily  
B. drawing conclusions about  
C. making jokes about  
D. explaining in detail
2. \_\_\_\_ In one ultimate moment of *lucidity* it seemed to me that we were damned souls wandering in the half world.  
A. tragedy  
B. clarity  
C. intelligence  
D. imaginativeness
3. \_\_\_\_ These were the showers, a *compulsory* formality at the entrance to all these camps.  
A. required  
B. offensive  
C. unnecessary  
D. absurd
4. \_\_\_\_ “He wants to find out whether we can dominate our *base* instincts and kill the Satan within us.”  
A. ignoble  
B. unthinking  
C. significant  
D. boastful
5. \_\_\_\_ Of course we had heard about the Fascists, but they were still an *abstraction* to us.  
A. foreign military  
B. imaginary threat  
C. theoretical concept  
D. frightening thought
6. \_\_\_\_ So many crazed men, so many cries, so much *bestial* brutality!  
A. needless  
B. savage  
C. methodical  
D. narrow-minded
7. \_\_\_\_ Never shall I forget that *nocturnal* silence which deprived me, for all eternity, of the desire to live.  
A. harmful  
B. depressing  
C. endless  
D. nighttime
8. \_\_\_\_ The baton moved *unremittingly*, sometimes to the right, sometimes to the left.  
A. constantly  
B. rhythmically  
C. heartlessly  
D. infrequently
9. \_\_\_\_ The man looking for us was a bespectacled fellow with a wrinkled, *wizened* face.  
A. scholarly  
B. gentle  
C. shriveled  
D. sneering
10. \_\_\_\_ My father ran to right and left, exhausted, comforting friends, running to the Jewish Council to see if the *edict* had not been revoked in the meantime.  
A. false rumor  
B. guilty verdict  
C. official order  
D. forced deportation



## Comprehension Questions

H 13-23 / B 1-12 / W 3-14

Go back to page 3 if you don't remember what these abbreviations stand for.

1. When and where was Elie Wiesel's early boyhood spent? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Explain why the people of Sighet don't mind having Moché the Beadle around. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What do Elie and Moché talk about? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why does Moché disappear for a few months? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How do the people of Sighet respond to Moché's stories about the Gestapo? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why does Mr. Wiesel say he is "too old to start a new life"? (What is his statement a response to?)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What happens in Sighet on the seventh day of Passover? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What is every Jew made to wear in order to identify them as Jews? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Where are the Jews of Sighet forced to live? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What rights do the Jews of Sighet lose by decree? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. Why does someone knock on the window? \_\_\_\_\_

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12. What news does Mr. Wiesel get from the Council? \_\_\_\_\_

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13. What do the Jews think might be the reason for their departure? \_\_\_\_\_

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14. Describe how the deportees are abused. \_\_\_\_\_

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15. Where are the deportees told they are going? \_\_\_\_\_

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16. What breaks Madame Schächter's spirit? \_\_\_\_\_

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17. What does Madame Schächter scream? \_\_\_\_\_

18. To what station are the deportees brought? \_\_\_\_\_

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19. How does Madame Schächter's vision come true? \_\_\_\_\_

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20. How does Elie get separated from his mother and sisters? \_\_\_\_\_

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21. Why don't the deportees rise up against the guards? \_\_\_\_\_

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22. What does Elie see the Germans do to the truck full of children? \_\_\_\_\_

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23. How does Elie's faith begin to change when he sees the children killed? \_\_\_\_\_

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24. Why does Elie plan to kill himself, and then change his mind? \_\_\_\_\_

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H 43-54 / B 32-43 / W 34-46

25. Who are the first ones to beat Elie and the other new prisoners? \_\_\_\_\_

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26. How are the prisoners disinfected? \_\_\_\_\_

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27. Why does Elie thank God for mud? \_\_\_\_\_

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28. What does the SS officer say will happen to those who cannot work? \_\_\_\_\_

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29. Why does the gypsy strike Mr. Wiesel? \_\_\_\_\_

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30. What advice does the Polish prisoner in charge of the block give? \_\_\_\_\_

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31. What is tattooed on each prisoner's left arm? \_\_\_\_\_

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32. Why does Elie lie to Stein of Antwerp? \_\_\_\_\_

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33. Describe the lie. \_\_\_\_\_

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34. What motto is inscribed above the gates of Auschwitz? \_\_\_\_\_

35. What does the motto mean? \_\_\_\_\_

36. To what new camp are Elie and Mr. Wiesel sent? \_\_\_\_\_

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# Words to Own

## Part III (Buna to Buchenwald)

1. **annihilate:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. **apathy:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. **appeasing:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. **countenance:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. **derision:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. **emaciated:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. **encumbrance:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. **functionaries:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. **implored:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. **inconsiderable:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. **indeterminate:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. **inert:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. **interminable:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. **lamentation:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. **meager:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Words to Own

### Part III (Buna to Buchenwald), continued

16. **privations:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

17. **semblance:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

18. **summarily:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

19. **stupefy:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

20. **vigilance:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Words to Own Worksheet

**Directions:** Choose the letter of the word or phrase that most nearly defines the *italicized* word in each excerpt from Night. Use capital letters.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The race seemed *interminable*.  
A. aimless  
B. endless  
C. inappropriate  
D. illogical
2. \_\_\_\_\_ A poor, *emaciated*, dried-up Jew questioned him avidly in a trembling voice.  
A. extremely thin  
B. hideously scarred  
C. emotionally exhausted  
D. utterly humiliated
3. \_\_\_\_\_ We were given winter clothes – slightly thicker striped shirt. The veterans found in this a new source of *derision*.  
A. rudeness  
B. scorn  
C. jealousy  
D. bitterness
4. \_\_\_\_\_ “All the invalids will be *summarily* killed,” said the faceless one.  
A. systematically  
B. secretly  
C. promptly  
D. individually
5. \_\_\_\_\_ He sat up and looked round him, ...*stupefied* – a bereaved stare,  
A. amazed  
B. frightened  
C. ignorant  
D. consoled
6. \_\_\_\_\_ He...had sought...to free himself from an *encumbrance* which could lessen his own chances of survival.  
A. consequence  
B. shortcoming  
C. duty  
D. burden
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Man is...to humble and *inconsiderable* to seek to understand the mysterious ways of God.  
A. insensitive  
B. unwise  
C. unimportant  
D. insecure
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Was it not dangerous to allow your *vigilance* to fail, even for a moment?  
A. determination  
B. watchfulness  
C. strength  
D. courage
9. \_\_\_\_\_ At last, the morning star appeared in the gray sky. A trail of *indeterminate* light showed on the horizon.  
A. subtle  
B. deceptive  
C. dull  
D. distant
10. \_\_\_\_\_ His body remained *inert*.  
A. weak  
B. thin  
C. restless  
D. motionless

## Words to Own Worksheet, continued

**Directions:** Carefully read the definition of each word. Write a sentence of your own using that word. In your sentences, include clues to the meanings of the defined words.

11. implored: (verb) begged; pleaded sincerely

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12. countenance: (noun) face or features of the face

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13. annihilate: (verb) to destroy completely; to exterminate

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14. meager: (adjective) of small quantity; not adequate

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15. semblance: (noun) appearance; resemblance

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16. apathy: (noun) lack of interest or emotion; indifference

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17. lamentation: (noun) weeping; an expression of grief or sadness

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18. privations: (noun) hardships; lack of the necessities of everyday life

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19. functionaries: (noun) people who perform certain expected duties, especially official functions

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20. appeasing: (verb) satisfying; relieving

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# Comprehension Questions

H 55-72 / B 45-62 / W 47-65

1. Describe Elie's job at Buna. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What do Yossi, Tibi, and Elie plan to do after the liberation? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why is Elie sent to the dentist? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How does the French girl comfort Elie? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Where do Elie and the French girl meet again years later? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How does Franek get Elie to give up his gold crown? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why is Elie given twenty-five lashes? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What comparison is used to describe the soup? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Describe what happens with the soup during the alert. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Why are the prisoners filled with joy instead of frightened by the bombs? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Why is the youth from Warsaw hanged? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. Why are the Oberkapo and the pipel hanged? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

H 73-90 / B 63-80 / W 66-84

13. How many men come to the Rosh Hashanah service? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. How is this New Year's Day different for Elie? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

15. Why doesn't Elie fast on Yom Kippur? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

16. What "fine New Year's gift" does the SS give the Jews? \_\_\_\_\_

17. What does Elie do to avoid being selected by Dr. Mengele? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

18. What "inheritance" does Elie's father give him after he is selected? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

19. How does Mr. Wiesel avoid the second selection? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

20. What do Akiba Drumer and the Polish rabbi have in common? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

21. How does Elie end up in the hospital? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

22. Explain why Elie leaves the hospital only two days after his surgery. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

23. What does the head of the block have the prisoners do before moving out? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

H 91-102 / B 81-92 / W 85-97

24. What makes the move to Gleiwitz so hard? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

25. How does Zalman die? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

26. What happens to the prisoners who stop running? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

27. Why does Mr. Wiesel make Elie wake up when he falls asleep in the shed? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

28. What doesn't Elie tell Rabbi Eliahou? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

29. How does Elie almost die in the barracks? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

30. What does Juliek do before he dies? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

31. How does Elie save his father even after he is sent to the left during selection? \_\_\_\_\_

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H 103-119 / B 93-109 / W 98-115

32. Why is Mr. Wiesel almost thrown from the train? \_\_\_\_\_

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33. How do the German workmen amuse themselves? \_\_\_\_\_

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34. Years later, how is the Parisienne's treatment of the natives similar to the Germans' treatment of the starving Jews? \_\_\_\_\_

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35. How do the old man and his son die? \_\_\_\_\_

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36. How does Meir Katz save Elie? \_\_\_\_\_

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37. When the train arrives in Buchenwald, why do only a dozen of the original prisoners get off the cattle car? \_\_\_\_\_

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38. Why doesn't Elie want his father to rest while he himself had a hot bath? \_\_\_\_\_

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39. Why does Elie feel ashamed of himself while searching for his father? \_\_\_\_\_

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40. Why does Elie hesitate to give his sick father soup? \_\_\_\_\_

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41. Why does Elie hate the doctors? \_\_\_\_\_

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42. How do the other patients treat Mr. Wiesel? \_\_\_\_\_

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43. How does Mr. Wiesel die? \_\_\_\_\_

44. How much longer is Elie in the camp after his father dies? \_\_\_\_\_

45. What happens when the camp resistance movement acts? \_\_\_\_\_

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46. What is the prisoners' first concern after being liberated? \_\_\_\_\_

47. How does Elie nearly die three days after liberation? \_\_\_\_\_

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# Timeline of the Holocaust, 1933-1945

## 1933

- January 30 Adolf Hitler appointed Chancellor of Germany. The appointment was the result of backroom political intrigue. President von Hindenburg was assured that Hitler's radical tendencies would be kept in check.
- February 27 Fire at the Reichstag (Parliament building); The Nazis did not win a majority in the 1932 elections, so they devised such terroristic acts as the Reichstag fire to place blame on opponents.
- March 20 First concentration camp – Dachau – established
- March 23 The Enabling Act, which allowed Hitler to ignore the Constitution and give his decrees the power of law, passed by Nazi-dominated Reichstag
- April 1 Boycott of Jewish shops and businesses; Jewish professionals barred from entering their offices and places of employment
- April 7 First anti-Jewish decree: The Law for the Reestablishment of the Civil Service. With this law, Nazis removed Jews, communists, and socialists from positions in civil service and universities
- April 22 Ritual slaughter of animals in accordance with Jewish dietary laws prohibited in Germany
- April 26 The Gestapo (secret political police) established
- May 10 Public burnings of books authored by Jews and opponents of Nazism
- Spring / Summer Universities and the arts “cleansed” of Jewish influence. Jewish professors expelled. Jewish writers and artists prohibited from practicing their professions.
- Spring / Summer Jewish organizations in America and Western Europe protest Nazi persecution of the Jews; a few call for boycott of Nazi Germany
- October 19 Germany leaves the League of Nations

## 1934

- June 30 “Night of the Long Knives”: Nazis purge leadership of the Storm Troopers (SA), removing all opposition to the Nazis
- August 2 Hitler names himself president and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces following the death of von Hindenburg

## 1935

- May 25 Germany renews conscription (compulsory enrollment for military or naval service), in violation of the Treaty of Versailles.
- May 31 Jews barred from serving in German Armed Forces
- September 15 Nuremberg Laws, anti-Jewish racial laws, enacted. Jews were no longer considered German citizens, could not marry Aryans, fly the German flag, or hire German maids under the age of 45
- November 14 Germany defines Jews as anyone with three Jewish grandparents or someone with two Jewish grandparents who has identified himself/herself as a Jew in one of the following ways:  
A) belonging to the official Jewish religious community  
B) married to a Jew

C) child of a Jewish parent

This racial definition meant that Jews were being persecuted not for their religious beliefs and practices, but rather for a so-called racial identity transmitted irrevocably through the blood of their ancestors.

## 1936

- March 7 Germans march into the Rhineland which had been demilitarized according to the Treaty of Versailles
- May 5 Ethiopia occupied by Italy
- June 17 Himmler appointed Chief of German Police

## 1937

- July 16 Buchenwald Concentration Camp opens

## 1938

- March 13 Anschluss: Annexation of Austria by Germany. The Austrian chancellor was bullied into telling Austrian troops not to resist Germans. All German anti-Semitic decrees immediately applied in Austria.
- April 26 Jews must register all property with authorities
- August 1 Adolf Eichmann establishes Office of Jewish Emigration to speed up the pace of forced emigration
- August 17 Decrees revoke all names changes of Jews and force those Jews who did not have names recognized as Jewish by German authorities to add "Israel" (for males) and "Sarah" (for females) as middle names
- September 29-30 At Munich Conference England and France agree to turn over Sudetenland (part of Czechoslovakia) to Germany
- October 5 Following request by the Swiss authorities, Germans order all Jews' passports marked with a large red "J" to prevent Jews from smuggling themselves into Switzerland
- October 28 Jews with Polish citizenship living in Germany are expelled to Polish border. Poles refuse to admit them. Germans refuse to allow them back into Germany. 17,000 stranded in frontier town of Zbaszyn.
- November 9-10 Kristallnacht (Night of the Broken Glass): anti-Jewish pogrom in Germany and Austria. 200 synagogues destroyed. 7,500 Jewish shops looted and 300,000 male Jews sent to concentration camps (Dachau, Buchenwald, Sachsenhausen)
- November 12 Decree forcing all Jews to transfer retail businesses to Aryan hands
- November 15 Numerus Nullus decree expels all Jewish pupils from German schools
- ## 1939
- January 30 Hitler threatens in Reichstag speech that if war erupts it will mean the *vernichtung* (extermination) of European Jews
- March 15 Nazis occupy part of Czechoslovakia (Bohemia and Moravia); make Slovakia independent satellite state
- March 22 Germans occupy port of Memel
- August 23 Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact signed: nonaggression pact between Russia and Germany
- September 1 Beginning of World War II: Germany invades Poland. Poland is defeated within a month.
- September 17 Russia invades Eastern Poland
- September 27 Jews in German-occupied Poland forced to wear distinguishing badge

November 28 First ghetto in Poland established at Protokow

## 1940

April 9 Germans occupy Denmark and Southern Norway

April 27 Himmler issues directive to establish a concentration camp at Auschwitz

May 7 Lodz ghetto closed off; approximately 165,000 inhabitants in 1.6 square miles

May 10 Germany invades Holland, Belgium, and France

May 20 Concentration camp established at Auschwitz

June 22 France surrenders to Nazis

August 8 Battle of Britain begins

September 27 Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis

November 15 Warsaw Ghetto sealed off: approximately 500,000 inhabitants

November 20-24 Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia join Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis

## 1941

January 21-26 Anti-Jewish riots in Romania by Iron Guard; hundreds of Jews cruelly butchered

March Adolf Eichmann appointed head of Gestapo section for Jewish affairs

April Germany occupies Greece and Yugoslavia

June Vichy government deprives Jews of French North Africa of their rights as citizens

June 22 Germany invades the Soviet Union

End of June Nazi *Einsatzgruppen* (special mobile killing units) carry out mass murder of Jews in areas of Soviet Union occupied by German army

July 31 Heydrich appointed by Goering as responsible for implementation of Final Solution

September 1 Jews in Third Reich obligated to wear yellow star of David as distinguishing mark

September 3 First gassing with Zyklon B performed on 600 Soviet prisoners of war at Auschwitz

September 28-29 Massacre of Jews at Babi Yar in a ravine outside Kiev. 34,000 murdered.

October 23 Murder of 19,000 Jews in Odessa

October Establishment of Birkenau camp; site of mass extermination of Jews, Gypsies, Poles, Russians, and others

December 7 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor

December 8 Chelmno extermination camp begins operation; 340,000 Jews, 20,000 Poles and Czechs liquidated there by April 1943

## 1942

January 20 At the Wannsee Conference, Heydrich reveals official plan to murder all Jews on European continent

January Jewish underground organizations established in Vilna Ghetto and Kovno Ghetto



March 1	Extermination by gas begins at Sobibor extermination camp; by October 1943, 250,000 murdered
Later March	Deportations to Auschwitz extermination camp begin
June 1	Treblinka extermination camp begins operation; by August 1943, 700,000 Jews murdered
June 30	All Jewish school in Germany closed
June	Jewish Partisan unit established in forests of Byelorussia
July 28	Jewish Fighting Organization (ZOB) established in Warsaw Ghetto
Summer	Deportation of Jews to extermination camps from Holland, Poland, France, Belgium, Croatia; armed resistance by Jews in ghettos of Kletzk, Wieswiew, Mir, Lackwa, Kremments, and Tuchin
November	Allied forces land in North Africa
Winter	Deportation of Jews from Norway, Germany, and Greece to extermination camps; Jewish Partisan movement organizes in forests near Lublin

## **1943**

February 2	German advance in Russia stopped at Stalingrad
March	Liquidation of Kracow Ghetto
April 19	Warsaw Ghetto revolt begins as Germans attempt to liquidate 70,000 ghetto inhabitants; Jewish underground fights Nazis until early June
June	Himmler orders liquidation of all the ghettos in Poland and the Soviet Union
Summer	Armed resistance by Jews in Czatoschowa, Lvov, Bedzin, Bialystock, and Tarnow ghettos
August	Armed revolt in Treblinka extermination camp
Fall	Liquidation of large ghettos: Misk, Vilna, Riga
October 14	Armed revolt in Sobibor extermination camp

## **1944**

March 19	Germany occupies Hungary
May 15	Nazis begin deporting Hungarian Jews; by June 27, 38,000 sent to Auschwitz
June 6	Allied invasion of Normandy
Spring/Summer	Red Army repels Nazi forces
July 20	Group of German officers attempts to assassinate Hitler
July 24	Russians liberate Majdanek extermination camp
Summer	Liquidation of ghettos in Kovno (Kaunas), Shavil (Siauliai) and Lodz; inmates sent to extermination camps
October 7	Revolt by inmates in Auschwitz results in one crematorium being blown up
October 31	Remnants of Slovakian Jews deported to Auschwitz
November 2	Gassing ceases at Auschwitz

November 8 Beginning of death march for approximately 40,000 Jews from Budapest to Austria

November Last Jews deported from Theresienstadt to Auschwitz

## **1945**

January 17 Evacuation of Auschwitz; beginning of death march for 66,000 camp inmates

January 25 Beginning of death march for 50,000 inmates of Stutthof

April 3-4 Beginning of death march for 30,000 inmates of Buchenwald

April Red Army enters Germany from East

April 30 Hitler commits suicide

May 8 Germany surrenders, ending the Third Reich

Taken in part from the book *Genocide: Critical Issues of the Holocaust*, a Simon Wiesenthal Center publication.

## Journal: My Most Precious Possessions

The Nazis permit Elie and his family to take only their most precious possessions or what they can carry to the ghetto. When the Nazis evacuate the Jewish families from the ghettos and force them to board the cattle cars for work camps, they again tell them to take only what they can carry.

**Directions:** If you were in a situation where you were forced to suddenly leave your home and were told only to bring those items you could carry to the ghetto, what would you bring? Make a list of the items you would bring, but remember they must be items you can carry with you.

My Most Precious Possessions:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Using the space below, explain in five to six sentences why you chose the items you did and how you would feel if you had to leave them behind.

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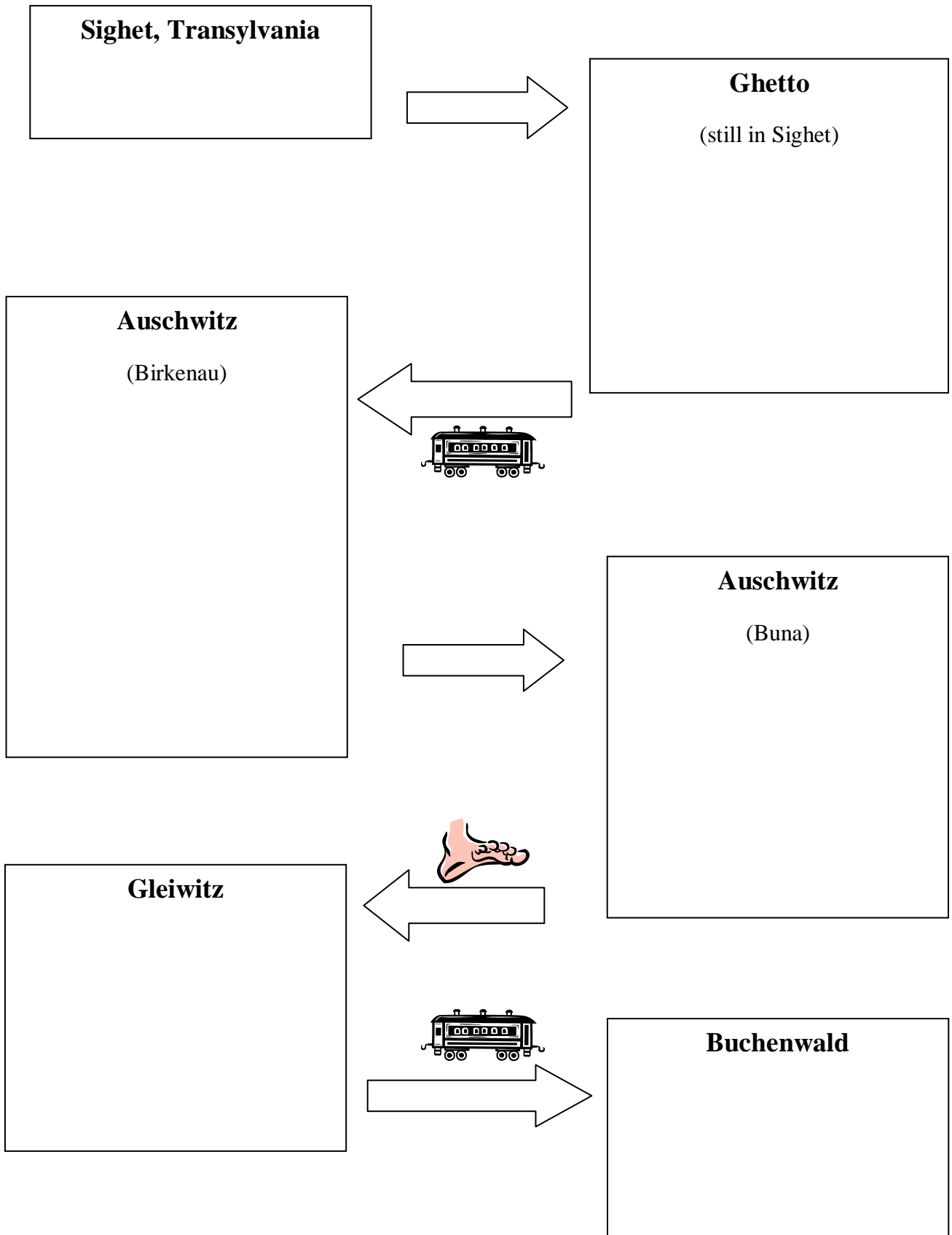
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# Setting



## Similes and Metaphors: Describing the Unthinkable

A metaphor is a figure of speech used to compare two unlike things. An example would be, “My heart was a shattered mirror.” A simile is also a figure of speech used to compare two unlike things, but similes use “like” or “as.” For example, “My love is like a red, red rose.”

**Directions:** Use the examples below from Night and decide if each is a simile or metaphor. Next, identify the two things being compared.

Example	Metaphor or Simile?	Explain
“We can’t go like beasts to a slaughter.”		
“It was a nightmare.”		
“Never shall I forget the little faces of the children whose bodies I saw turn to wreaths of smoke.”		
“It seemed like an eternity to me.”		
“Our senses were blunted; everything was blurred as in a fog.”		

## Themes

A theme is a central message or insight into life revealed through a literary work. It is a general statement about people or life in general. There are many subjects within the novel Night that can be developed into themes.

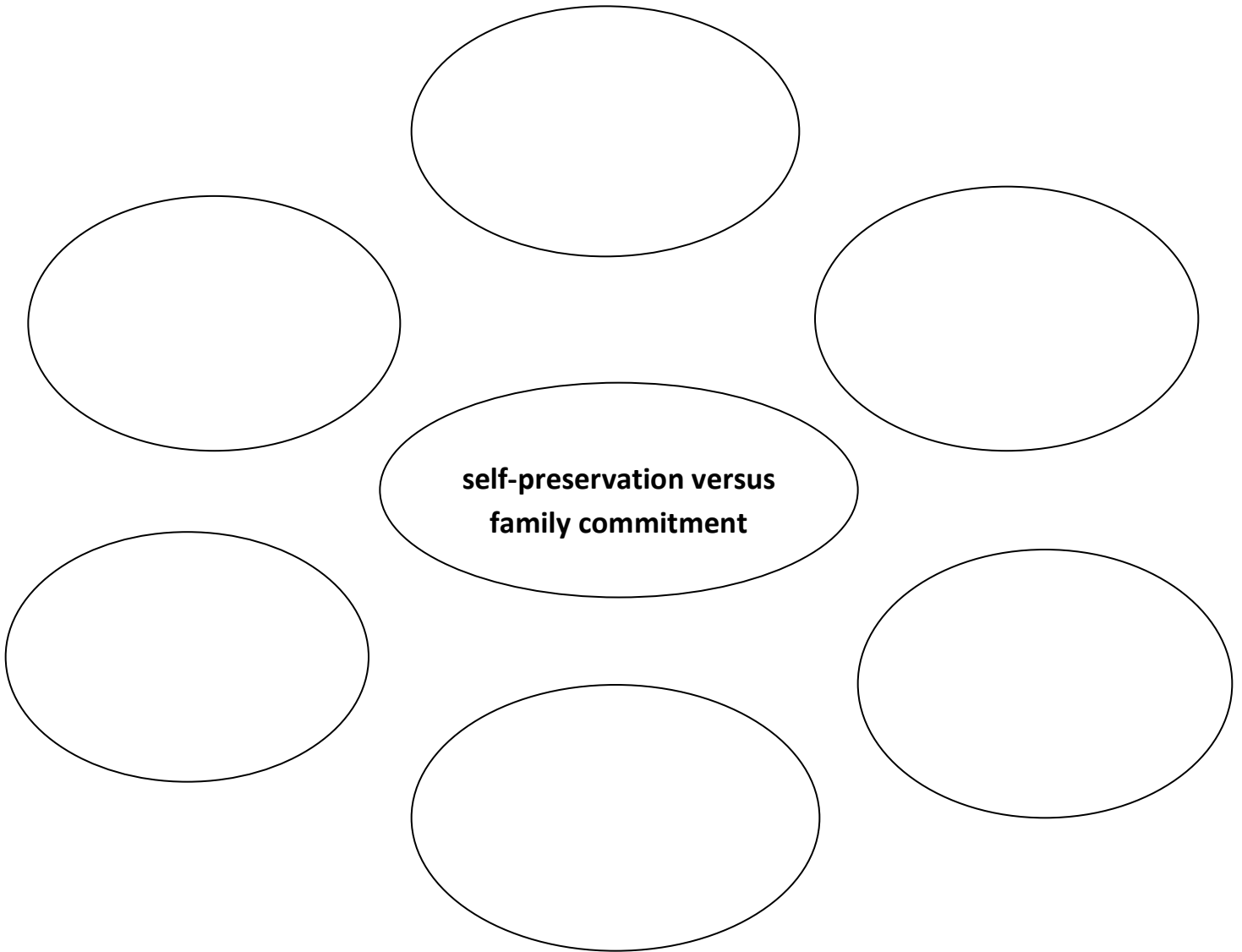
**Directions:** Complete the chart below. For each subject, find direct quotes from the novel that relate to that subject. After considering your textual evidence, develop a thematic statement for each subject.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Evidence from the Novel</b> (Include citations)	<b>Theme</b>
LIFE		
MANKIND		
COMPASSION		
FAITH		

## Theme, continued

One of the themes of Night, born out of Elie Wiesel's own experience with his father and observations of other sons and fathers, addresses self-preservation versus family commitment.

**Directions:** Complete the bubble cluster below with direct quotes that show the interactions between fathers and sons. After considering your textual evidence, develop a thematic statement.



Theme:

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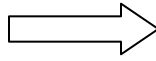
## Theme, continued

Another of the themes of Night deals with dignity in the face of human cruelty.

**Directions:** Complete the three boxes on the right. You may either paraphrase events from the novel or use direct quotes. After considering your textual evidence, develop a thematic statement.

### Inhuman Cruelty

Abusive kapos and being allowed only minimal food



### Responding with Dignity

On Rosh Hashanah...

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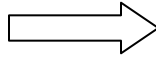
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Forbidden to play Beethoven, forced on a death march, freezing and crushed in barracks



Juliek...

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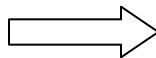
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The doctors will not attend Eliezer's father, the fellow prisoners beat him, no more food is given to him because he is dying



Eliezer...

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Theme:

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# Motif

A motif is a word, character, object, image, metaphor, or idea that recurs and usually bears an important relationship to the theme of a work.

The connotations of a word – the meanings, associations, or emotions that a words suggests – often enable it to act as a motif.

What are some connotations of the word *night*?

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**Directions:** Locate three examples of the word *night* in the novel. Write a direct quote and citation in the first column. Identify the events which occur around the use of the words and write them in the second column. In the third column, tell what the word connotes in its context.

Example	Event	Connotation
“By day I studied Talmud and by night I would run to the synagogue” (Wiesel 3).	At night Elie prays and later studies with Moishe the Beadle.	Night is a time of mystery and mystical things.

## Motif, continued

Another motif in Night is the use of eyes, which reveal the thoughts, feelings, or personalities of people throughout the novel.

**Directions:** Identify the narrator's description of each individual's eyes and the behavior or personality of that individual.

Individual	Description of Eyes	Behavior or Personality
Moishe the Beadle	Dreamy and then joyless	He is a kind and understanding teacher before he is deported, but he returns to Sighet an emotionally dead man.
Mrs. Schächter		
The French girl		
Franek and the old man on the transport to Buchenwald		
Eliezer		

## Video Questions: An Interview with Elie Wiesel at Auschwitz



Directions: Answer the following questions as we watch the video.

1. How many people died at Auschwitz? \_\_\_\_\_
2. In what country is the death camp located? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why was Germany “desperate”? \_\_\_\_\_
4. True or False: Buna and Birkenau are part of Auschwitz. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Elie Wiesel says, “This is the largest \_\_\_\_\_ in recorded history.”
6. Why was Madame Schächter speaking of fire? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Where did the largest mass murder in history occur? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How many were deported each day to Auschwitz? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What does Elie Wiesel mean when he says, “The world shrank.”? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What percentage of those who arrived at Auschwitz were killed? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What was the average life span of the prisoners at the camps? \_\_\_\_\_
12. What does “Arbeit macht frei” from the iron gate in front of Auschwitz mean?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Video Questions, continued

13. How did Elie Wiesel do with/cope with his anger? “I \_\_\_\_\_ and I \_\_\_\_\_ and my goal in both cases is to \_\_\_\_\_.
14. What does Elie do to help others who are experiencing injustice? “I can’t do anything except use my \_\_\_\_\_.  
What does he mean by this statement? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. What was the hair used for? \_\_\_\_\_
16. Elie Wiesel said, “We must be there to shout and say ‘ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ’ ”.