

Night

Discussion Questions

Directions: You will be expected to answer these discussion questions from the book. I suggest that you complete them as you read. However, I understand that you each have other classes and extracurricular commitments. Therefore, you can manage your time and complete them as you wish. However, they will be collected at the end of our unit. If you have questions or do not understand something, please ask. It will save your time and your grade. **USE A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER. USE COMPLETE SENTENCES.**

Chapter One

1. Who is Moshe the Beadle? What does he help Elie study? What question does he ask Elie that confounds Elie?
2. How does Elie describe his father?
3. After all of the foreigners are expelled from Sighet, Moshe the Beadle escapes and returns to warn the Jewish people. What is he warning? How are people responding to his warnings?
4. What does Elie ask his father to do?
5. When did the Germans arrest the leaders of the Jewish community initially?
6. What were the subsequent edicts passed restraining the rights of the Jewish people? (There are three mentioned).
7. What was the street name in the first ghetto in which Elie and his family lived? Why might this be symbolic? (Consider the Biblical story of Adam & Eve).
8. Elie says that the ghetto was “ruled by neither German nor Jew,” what was it ruled by?
9. After meeting with the council, what does Elie’s father learn will happen to the Jewish people of Sighet?
10. There is a knock at the window. It is not until after the war that Elie learns who knocked. Who was it and what was his mission/motive?
11. During the deportation, the people complain that they are _____. Why is this inclusion in the text tainted with irony?

Chapter Two

12. After being deported by the Hungarian police from Sighet, who takes over control of the train?
13. How many people are in one boxcar?
14. Describe the incident with Mrs. Schachter.
15. What can the reader assume happened in the “hospital car?”
16. Where do they arrive?

Chapter Three

17. At the start of chapter three, there is a break between materialism and “life.” Wiesel writes, “The beloved objects that we had carried with us from place to place were now left behind in the wagon and with them, finally, our illusions” (29). What were the illusions? When materialism and illusions are stripped away from the understanding of life, what becomes the definition of life?
18. Immediately off the train, what six words separated Elie from his mother and his sister forever?
19. Elie is fifteen and his father is fifty. However, in an act of kindness, an inmate tells Elie and his father to lie about their ages. What are their new ages? In addition, when Dr. Mengele is separating the incoming people, what occupation does Elie provide?
20. What happens in the crematorium?
21. What did men begin reciting as they approached the crematorium?
22. Describe the process the men go through.
23. What does “Arbeit Macht Frei” translate to?

24. Since arrival at Aushwitz, what are the first “human words” Elie hears?
25. What is Elie’s number? Why were prisoners in the concentration camps given numbers?
26. Who was Stein from Antwerp and what does he want to know? What does Elie tell him and why?
27. For what reason does Elie thank God for mud?
28. In the third week at Aushwitz, the Blockalteste is removed. For what reason is he removed?
29. Where are Elie and his father at the end of chapter three?

Chapter Four

30. Elie first uses the phrase “fleshy lips” to describe a SS Officer. He uses the same phrase when describing a tent leader. What could the phrase “fleshy lips” be symbolic of?
31. Where do Elie and his father work each day at Buna? In other words, what does their work involve in the labor camp?
32. How does Elie get out of the gold tooth removal initially?
33. After Idek takes out his anger on Elie, the French girl who passed as “Aryan” (who can supposedly not speak any German) says what to Elie in perfect German?
34. When Idek beats Elie’s father, Elie is angry with whom?
35. Through what strategies does Franek, the foreman, get Elie’s gold crown?
36. Why was Elie whipped?
37. Who is the sad-eyed angel and what happens to him?

Chapter Five

38. What two religious observances create a great void between Elie and his God?
39. During the first selection, prisoners were required to run in front of SS officers and Dr. Mengele. For what reason?
40. What is Elie’s inheritance from his father?
41. Why is Elie sent to the infirmary?
42. What answer does the patient in the bed give Elie for believing in Hitler more than God?
43. After evacuation, what happened to those left in the infirmary?

Chapter Six

44. What happened to Zalman?
45. What keeps Elie alive during the death march?
46. Among the pile of the dead and dying, whom does Elie recognize and how does he die?
47. Why does Elie fight to stay awake instead of falling asleep in the snow?
48. At the end of chapter six, what is happening?

Chapter Seven

49. While they are passing through a German town on the train, what spectacle do the German towns people find amusing that disturbs Elie?
50. In the car, during what does Elie witness between a man and his son?
51. What happens to Elie when he is sleeping that makes his father call out for help from Meir Katz?
52. Of the roughly 100 people in the boxcar, how many people survive the journey?
53. Where do they arrive?

Chapter Eight

54. What happens to Elie’s father?

Chapter Nine

55. What day did the “wheel of history turn?” How long was Wiesel in the concentration camps?
56. What did Elie dream of?
57. How does Wiesel end the novella? Why is this a poignant conclusion to the text?