

***Night* DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

At the beginning of the book, Wiesel tells the story of Moishe the Beadle. Why do you think none of the people in the village, including Wiesel, believed Moishe when he returned?

One of the few things Wiesel describes about his childhood and life before the Holocaust is his faith. How does his faith change? Does this book change your view of God?

How do the people Wiesel interacts with strengthen or diminish his hope and desire to live? Talk about his father, Madame Schachter, Juliek (the violin player), the French girl, Rabbi Eliahou & his son, the Nazis. Which of their actions touched you the most?

Was any section of the book particularly striking to you? Which one and why?

At the end of the book, Wiesel describes himself in the mirror as "a corpse" gazing back at himself. In what ways did Wiesel die during the Holocaust? Does the memoir give you any hope that Wiesel ever started living again?

Why do you think Wiesel titled the book "Night?" What are the literal and symbolic meanings of "night" in the book?

How does Wiesel's writing style strengthen his account?

Using *Night* as a model, compose extended definitions of repression, autobiography, realism, first-person narrative, literary foils, protagonist/antagonist, allusion, aphorism, polemics, irony, oral tradition, denouement, dialogue, symbol, rhetorical question, existentialism, documentary, surrealism, and parallelism.

Contrast a child's eye view of World War II as opposed to a journal written by a Kapo, a resistance member, Meir Katz, Stein of Antwerp, Chlomo Wiesel, Madame Schächter, Moshe the Beadle, Rabbi Eliahou, Franek the violinist, the Jewish surgeon, the rapacious Polish dentist, or a member of the Red Army.

Analyze relationships between father and son, mother and son, teacher and pupil, and fellow Jews, internees, and workers. Explain why Elie seems alone in his contemplation of pain and evil.

Locate scenes in which the physical, emotional, and moral landscapes fall into contrasting patches of light and dark. Express the meaning of the title as it applies to these scenes.

In his Nobel Prize acceptance speech, Wiesel stressed, "Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim." Discuss his concept of activism as it's played out in the book.