**English 10**

***Night* Study Guide**

***Night* Glossary of Literary Terms**

**These are the literary terms you are responsible for during your reading. Define each of the words below to create a glossary of definitions to use while you read.**

**Simile:**

**Dramatic Irony:**

**Symbolism:**

**Point of View:**

**First-person narrator:**

**Third-person limited narrator:**

**Third-person omniscient narrator:**

**Foreshadowing:**

**Personification:**

**Metaphor:**

**Allusion:**

**Flash-Forward:**

**Irony:**

**Repetition:**

**Pages 1-22**

**Pre-Reading Journal:** When faced with tough decisions or information that is hard to handle, why do some people choose to not act or to ignore the information presented to them? What conflicts could arise as a result of this denial?

**Vocabulary: Define the following vocabulary words using context clues from the book.**

liquidate

billeted

ghetto

anecdote

premonition

truncheonscompatriots

**Literary Terms: Find examples of each of the following literary terms as they appear in this section.**

Simile

Dramatic Irony

Symbolism

Point of View

**Reading Guide Questions: Answer each question in a COMPLETE sentence on a separate sheet of paper.**

1. Why did Wiesel begin his novel with the account of Moishe the Beadle?
2. Why did the Jews of Sighet choose to believe the London radio reports rather than Moishe?
3. Why was it ironic that the leaders of the Jewish community were arrested during the celebration of Passover?
4. What image did Wiesel use repeatedly to describe the abandoned homes?
5. When and why did Eliezer begin to hate the Hungarian police?
6. What did the condition of the synagogue on the eve of deportation reveal to the Jews about their captors?
7. In what way is the deportation of the Jews an example of dramatic irony?
8. What did the emblems on the German helmets symbolize?
9. What did the yellow star symbolize?
10. What point of view has Weisel chosen to tell this story? What are the advantages and limitations of this point of view?

**Post-Reading Journal:** Dramatic irony occurs when characters are ignorant of something that the reader or members of the audience understand. In what way is the deportation of the Jews of Sighet in this section an example of dramatic irony? Explain.

**Pages 23-28**

**Pre-Reading Journal:** When describing events to others, it is sometimes easy to get caught up in emotions. What are the advantages and disadvantages of becoming emotional (sad, angry, excited, etc.) when relaying information to others? Should such displays of emotion be avoided in certain situations? Explain.

**Vocabulary: Match the vocabulary words to their definitions.**

* 1. abyss
  2. constraints
  3. hermetically
  4. pestilential
  5. pious
  6. stench
* deadly; fatal
* so as to be airtight
* devoutly religious
* restrictions
* foul smell
* huge emptiness; fathomless hole

**Literary Terms: Find examples of each of the following literary terms as they appear in this section.**

Style

Foreshadowing

Personification

**Reading Guide Questions: Answer each question in a COMPLETE sentence on a separate sheet of paper.**

1. Why did Weisel point out the countryside outside the train?
2. What might have been the source of Madame Schachter’s visions of the fire?
3. Many prophecies in the Bible begin with the words “Hear ye this” or “Listen unto me”. What similar sentence was used by both Moishe the Beadle and Madame Schachter? Why did Wiesel put identical words into the mouths of these two characters?
4. What did the treatment of Madame Schachter reveal about what was happening to the community?
5. Why was it significant that no one on the train had ever heard of Auschwitz?
6. What do Madame Schachter’s visions foreshadow?

**Post-Reading Journal:** A notable feature of Wiesel’s memoir is his ability to control his language and, rather than comment on events, let these events speak for themselves. Find a paragraph in which horrific events are reported without emotion or commentary. How does this style of writing achieve Wiesel’s purpose? What does it reveal about Wiesel himself?

**Pages 29-46**

**Pre-Reading Journal:** Are there circumstances when it would be beneficial to not know the truth? Explain.

**Vocabulary: fill in the blanks using the words provided in the word bank.**

**bestial**

**incite**

**lucidity**

**notorious**

**unremittingly**

**wizened**

1. Some of the prisoners tried to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the others to attack the guards.
2. In moments of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the prisoners realized there was no escape.
3. Dr. Josef Mengele’s medical experiments on prisoners made him \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. Mengele’s baton moved \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, directing prisoners to the crematory or to the prison.
5. The prisoners felt dehumanized by the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ treatment they received.
6. A small man with a(n) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ face sought information about his family.

**Literary Terms: Find examples of each of the following literary terms as they appear in this section.**

Metaphor

Allusion

**Reading Guide Questions: Answer each question in a COMPLETE sentence on a separate sheet of paper.**

1. The Germans spoke to their prisoners with indifference. In what way was indifference worse than open anger or hatred?
2. What did Eliezer’s determination to remain with his father reveal?
3. What did Eliezer mean when he spoke of being “condemned to live”?
4. What was the significance of the inscription “Work is liberty”?
5. Why were the prisoners tattooed?
6. What happened to Stein?
7. Shortly after their arrival at the concentration camp, Eliezer had been separated from his mother and three sisters. Why did he write only about the fate of his mother and youngest sister?
8. Identify and explain the metaphor in these lines: “Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp, which has turned my life into one long night….”

**Post-Reading Journal:** Stien has hope for his wife and children; he claims that this hope is the only thing sustaining him. Elizer knows that they are likely dead but lies to give Stien false hope that they are alive. In your opinion, is Elizer justified to lie or should he be completely honest? Provide at least two reasons with explanations.

**Pages 47-65**

**Pre-Reading Journal:** Describe an issue that you have experienced that, at the time, seemed unbearable. How could knowledge of the outcome have changed your feelings or actions?

**Vocabulary: Define the following vocabulary words using context clues from the book.**

alleged

cynical

quarantine

Aryans

epidemic

sabotage

**Literary Terms: Find examples of each of the following literary terms as they appear in this section.**

Flash-forward

Metaphor

**Reading Guide Questions: Answer each question in a COMPLETE sentence on a separate sheet of paper.**

1. Earlier in the novel, Eliezer said the flames burned away the child that he had been, leaving only a body. In this section of the novel, he said he was even less than a body. What had he become, and why?
2. Why did Eliezer admit to being angry with his father when Idek beat him?
3. What sad lesson did Eliezer learn after attempting to hold on to his shoes and his gold crown?
4. Why did Idek have Eliezer beaten instead of having him killed?
5. How did the prisoners feel about the man who crawled to the soup cauldron during the air-raid?
6. Why weren’t the prisoners afraid to die in a bomb blast?
7. Why did Eliezer describe his reactions to the hangings in terms of the flavor of the soup?

**Post-Reading Journal**: Wiesel uses a flash-forward in this section of his memoir. Explain the flash-forward and the information it provides. How does this help to relieve tension at this point in the text?

**Pages 67-84**

**Pre-Reading Journal:** There are circumstances when it seems inappropriate to recognize or celebrate a holiday. Give an example of when a person might find it difficult or inopportune to celebrate? Explain.

**Vocabulary: Define the following vocabulary words using context clues from the book.**

accursed

decisive

emaciated

meager

mirage

void

**Literary Terms: Find examples of each of the following literary terms as they appear in the novel.**

Irony

Symbolism

Allusion

Repetition

**Reading Guide Questions: Answer each question in a COMPLETE sentence on a separate sheet of paper.**

1. What did Eliezer mean when he said, “The whole year was Yom Kippur”?
2. How did the head of Eliezer’s block treat the men under his command, and why?
3. The head of the block told the men to run “as if the devil were after you”. What is ironic about this advice?
4. What did Eliezer mean when he spoke of the “crucible of death”?
5. Was Akiba Drumer a victim of the selection or something else? Explain your answer.
6. What did the knife and spoon symbolize to Eliezer?
7. Eliezer’s hospital ward neighbor claims that he has “more faith in Hitler than in anyone else [because] he’s the only one who’s kept his promises, all his promises, to the Jewish people” (Wiesel 81). What is ironic about this statement?

**Post-Reading Journal:** Many of the prisoners are holding on to their Jewish faith and traditions while Elizer seems to be giving up on the religious life that was once so important to him. Write a rationale for both courses of action.

**Pages 85-115**

**Pre-Reading Journal:** Describe how Elizer’s and Shlomo’s relationship has changed since the beginning of the memoir.

**Literary Terms: Find examples of each of the following literary terms as they appear in this section.**

Personification

Symbolism

Conflict

**Reading Guide Questions: Answer each question in a COMPLETE sentence on a separate sheet of paper.**

1. Why was the silence in the shed worse than the sound of crying, moaning, or praying?
2. How was it possible for Juliek to have retained his violin in the camp?
3. Why was Eliezer touched by the “strange overwhelming little corpse” of the violin, when hundreds of human corpses left him unmoved?
4. What was the significance of the prisoners’ animal-like attack on the scraps of bread?
5. What point was Wiesel making in the story about the woman who threw coins to young divers?
6. What did the broken violin symbolize?
7. What did the air raid sirens reveal about the status of the war?
8. What effect did the showers have on the prisoners?
9. What role reversal took solace during the final illness of Eliezer’s father?
10. What did Eliezer’s wish to “burn up the whole world” reveal?
11. Why did Eliezer have conflicted feelings abut his father’s illness?
12. Why did the resistance movement wait so long to act?
13. Describe Eliezer’s reaction to seeing his image for the first time since being incarcerated.

**Post-Reading Journal:** Elizer is unable to cry when he learns of his father’s death. Do you believe that Elizer’s primary conflict in pages 104-112 is with his father or himself? Explain.