

English 10 Summer Reading

Night, by Elie Wiesel

Instructions:

This novel must be read and the answers **typed** by the **second day of school** in August. It is an immensely popular novel with a powerful message. Be sure to underline important passages and read carefully. It may be helpful to read the questions before you start the novel. Answer the following:

1. As Night begins, Eliezer is so moved by faith that he weeps when he prays. He is also searching for a deeper understanding of the mystical teachings of the Kabbalah. How does Eliezer's relationship with his faith and with God change as the novel progresses?
2. What literal and symbolic meanings does "night" have in the novel?
3. Early in the novel, after Moishe the Beadle escapes his execution, no one, not even Eliezer, believes his tale (7). Even when the Germans arrive in Sighet and move all the Jews into ghettos, the Jewish townspeople seem to ignore or suppress their fears. What might be the reasons for the townspeople's widespread denial of the evidence facing them?
4. In Night, who are the bystanders, the victims, and the perpetrators? Do these roles sometimes overlap? Explain.
5. At the end of Night, Wiesel writes, "From the depths of the mirror, a corpse was contemplating me. The look in his eyes as he gazed at me has never left me" (115). What parts of Eliezer died during his captivity? What was born in their place?
6. What scenes from Night do you remember most vividly? Have they made you look at the world or your family differently?

*Developed in collaboration with Hill and Wang, the publisher of Night

Instructions Continued:

Write at least one paragraph for each question. Develop your ideas clearly and support your statements with facts from the text (quotes, plot references, etc). Remember to have a clear topic sentence and a strong concluding sentence. Your paragraphs should be eight sentences or longer.

Helpful hints:

- Stay on-topic! Make sure you clearly understand what the question is asking.
- Write in present tense
- Avoid first person (except for question 6)
- Avoid passive language i.e. maybe, might, seems, perhaps, possible, etc.
- Carefully edit your work! There should be no punctuation or spelling errors.
- Include a title, a full heading, and double space
- You do not need to retype the question