

Night Study Guide

Name:

This study guide is NOT required. It is an optional resource, but it is strongly encouraged that you utilize it. Consider asking yourself questions after reading, writing responses to selected questions, using it as a review for quizzes, etc.

Chapter 1

1. Who was Moshe the Beadle?
2. How does Wiesel describe himself as a boy of 12?
3. How does Wiesel describe his father?
4. What happened to Moishe?
5. Several months later, Elie saw Moishe the Beadle again. What story did Moshe tell?
6. How had Moshe changed as a result of his experience?
7. How did other people in the village react to Moshe's story? Why do you suppose they reacted this way?
8. In the spring of 1944, what political changes occurred in Hungary?
9. What was the attitude of the Jews of Sighet?
10. After the Germans arrived in Sighet, what was the prevailing attitude among the residents?
11. After Passover, Wiesel says, "the curtain rose." What does this refer to? What happened? Consider the changes in how the Jews were treated.
12. What was bitterly ironic about the comments that Wiesel's father made regarding the wearing of the yellow star?
13. How did the Jews react to being confined to the ghetto?
14. The Germans had other plans for the Jews of Sighet, however. What were those plans?
15. The Wiesel family was among the last to leave the large ghetto. Where were they sent?
16. Given the fact that the title of this book is *Night*, what do you suppose a major theme in this work will be?
17. Identify each of the steps in the German plan, and point out how the cunning of the German plan and the people's human need for optimism in the face of danger led the Jews of Sighet to the transports to Auschwitz.

Chapter 2

18. After several days of travel, what did the prisoners finally realize?
19. What happened to Madame Schächter, and what did she do?
20. When the prisoners were finally unloaded from the train, where were they? How did they react?

Chapter 3

21. Immediately after the Jews were unloaded from the train, what do the German officers do?

22. The men were then marched before Dr. Josef Mengele. What did he do? What was his purpose?
23. What did Elie witness while he was standing in line? What was his reaction to what he saw?
24. When Elie realized that he and his father may be burned, what plan did he devise?
25. What did Elie revolt against?
26. List the things that Wiesel says he shall never forget.
27. This marked the end of Elie's first night at Auschwitz. What natural sign marked the beginning of the next day? What does Elie tell us of the change in himself?
28. Why did Elie berate himself so severely?
29. What was Elie's first impression of Auschwitz?
30. What was unusual about the prisoner in charge of their barracks?
31. The next day, the prisoners underwent a last step in their admission process. What was it?
32. Who did Elie meet after several days at the camp? What does he ask the Wiesels?
33. How did some religious Jews see their troubles? How did Elie feel about God?
34. Finally, Elie and his father were moved from their barracks. Where were they taken?

Chapter 4

35. How did the new camp appear to Elie?
36. As part of their medical examinations, prisoners were examined by a dentist. What was he looking for?
37. After several days, Elie and his father were assigned to a work detail. What were they to do? What potential problems were there in this job?
38. How did Elie avoid having his tooth pulled? What finally happened to the dentist and why?
39. What happened to Elie one day at the factory?
40. Who cleaned the blood from Elie and soothed him with kind words? What was unusual about her? Elie tells of meeting this same woman many years later in Paris. What important question did he ask her, and what was her reply?
41. What else did Idek do to the Wiesels? How did Elie respond?
42. How did the foreman get revenge on Elie and his father for refusing to give up the gold tooth? How did Elie try to stop it? Was he successful?
43. How did Idek punish Elie for spying on him?
44. Why were the prisoners happy about the air raid even though they might have been killed by bombs?
45. One day, the prisoners were told that soup would not be distributed until after roll call. Why was this?

46. What other public execution does Wiesel write about. Why was this execution particularly cruel?

Chapter 5

47. Wiesel's description of himself as "ashes" is an example of which figure of speech? What does the term suggest?
48. During Yom Kippur, what did the prisoners debate?
49. The head of Elie's block gave some words of advice to the prisoners to improve their chances and avoid being selected. What did he say?
50. What did the head of the block tell everyone after the selection process was over? Why did he say this?
51. Several days later though, some of the prisoners were told that they were not to report to work but would instead stay in camp. What was to become of these men?
52. What happened to Elie's father?
53. Why was Akiba Drumer chosen for selection according to Elie?
54. Two days after Elie's operation, what rumor began circulating around the camp? Why was this good news for the prisoners?
55. The prisoners had heard similar rumors in the past. Why were they particularly hopeful this time?
56. Why did Elie's hospital neighbor refuse to be fooled?
57. What bad news did the prisoners receive that day? What choice did Elie and his father have to make that day? What was their decision?
58. What became of those people who stayed behind in the hospital?

Chapter 6

59. As the prisoners ran through the night, what orders were the S.S. guards under?
60. Although Elie felt that he could have easily given up and died, why did he run on? Given the situation and their physical condition, what was remarkable about their night's journey?
61. Elie told the Rabbi Eliahou that he had not seen his son, but later remembered that he had indeed seen the boy. What else did Elie remember about the Rabbi's son?
62. What did Elie do in response?
63. The second night's march is different from the first in what ways?
64. When the prisoners finally reached their destination of Gleiwitz, a new danger arose. What was it?
65. How did some of the prisoners try to distance themselves from the grim reality of their existence?
66. This chapter is about hardship, perseverance, caring and not caring. List some quotes to support this generalization.

Chapter 7

67. After the transport train stopped in the middle of a field, what orders were given?
68. How did the prisoners respond? How did Elie save his father's life?
69. At one stop, a workman tossed in a piece of bread. What happened? How can you account for the prisoner's actions?
70. Throughout this chapter, how does Elie view the average German civilian?
71. What horrific scene did Elie witness? At the end of this scene why do you suppose Elie tells us that he was fifteen?
72. During the last day of their journey, what happened?
73. Of the 100 men who had gotten on the train with Elie, how many got out? What does the death of Meir Kayz suggest?
74. Where did the remaining prisoners finally arrive?

Chapter 8

75. After they arrived, the prisoners were supposed to shower. What did Elie's father want to do? Why did Elie shout at his father?
76. What finally forced them inside?
77. Weakened further by dysentery, the father could not get out of his bunk. What further injury did some of the inmates do him?
78. What advice did the block leader give Elie? What does Elie think of the advice?
79. After lying ill for over a week, what finally happened to Elie's father?

Chapter 9

80. How long was Elie's stay at Buchenwald? What were his thoughts during this time?
81. How did the prisoners know that the end of the war was near?
82. What did the prisoners think was going to happen to them?
83. What did the Germans decide to do with the prisoners?
84. Before all the prisoners could be evacuated, what happened?
85. Several hours later, what happened?
86. What comments did Wiesel make about the prisoners' actions after liberation?
87. What happened to Elie after liberation?
88. What does the last line of this book suggest?