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The prisoners are crammed together in the train car for the night.The train stops and the SS officers order the prisoners to toss any dead bodies out of the train. The prisoners are happy to get rid of the dead to make more room in the train car.Eliezer's father, who looks pretty dead, is almost thrown out, but Eliezer manages to revive him (by hitting him repeatedly) just in time.They resume their journey. There is no food—only snow. They travel for ten days, sometimes through German villages.A German workman by the train tracks throws some bread into the train car. The German watches, amused, as the men fight each other to the death to get the bread.A son kills his own father for a piece of bread.The bread incident is so interesting to the German workers that they begin tossing more bread into the train cars.During the night, somebody tries to strangle Eliezer. The man in charge of the wagon (who also happens to be a friend of Eliezer's dad), Meir Katz, manages to save him.On the last day of the journey, an icy wind blows through them. It seems that they can't possibly survive such a cold wind.When somebody cries out as they die, everybody begins to wail. Meir Katz wonders why the Germans don't just shoot everybody. It would be more merciful.The train at last arrives at Buchenwald. A hundred prisoners had gotten on the train—only a dozen get off. Eliezer and his father are among that dozen. Chapter 7 Eliezer, thinking his father is dead, desperately tries to revive him in order to prevent the SS volunteers from discarding his body. The train resumes its journey for several days with the prisoners lying on the floor, one on top of the other, and subsisting on snow as food. They would surprise the early morning German laborers with their appearance. Once, one such German laborer threw his loaf of bread into the wagon, and a fight ensued over the bread, with people physically fighting each other in order to get a bite. In the ensuing battle in which son flailed father, both were killed by another who snatched the bread from them. One night in the wagon, Eliezer himself was almost killed by someone who attempted to suffocate him. Conditions on that train ride were horrific. Hundreds had boarded the train. On the last night of their journey, only twelve disembarked. Among them were Eliezer and his father. They had arrived in Buchenwald. Chapter 8 This chapter shows the decline and eventful demise of Eliezer's father. It starts off inauspiciously: He wants surrender and die. Then he is feverish and begging for coffee and soup. Shortly afterward, his father seems to have become delusional and paranoid—thinking that people are pursuing him and attacking him even when they are not—and lapsing into strange behavior. He articulates nonsense, has dysentery, and is either refused help by doctors or is seen by some who want to kill him. The barrack comrades also beat him. Eliezer eventually gives in to his constant pleas for water, giving his father all that he has, even though he has been warned not to do so. He knows that his father will soon die anyway. One time when his father was feverishly pleading for water, an SS officer beat him to be silent. Even as his father was being beaten, he continued pleading with his son for the water. His son, lying on the lower bunk, did not dare move for fear that he, too, would be... On the train, the prisoners are crowded together, some dying, some still alive. Eliezer cannot distinguish between the survivors and those who are dead; there is no difference in their appearance. Eliezer himself is emotionally indifferent: what difference does it make if he dies today, tomorrow, or the next day? He calls to his father, who is huddled motionlessly nearby, but he does not move. The train stops in the middle of a field, and the SS orders all the corpses to be thrown out of the cars. The survivors in the wagon, knowing this means more room for them, rejoice. Volunteers strip clothing from the bodies and toss the corpses out onto the frozen field. Two men approach Eliezer's father, believing him to be dead. Eliezer slaps his father as hard as he can, and his eyes move slightly. The men move away. After twenty bodies are thrown from the wagon, the train resumes its slow journey through the snow.One day, as the train passes through a German town, a workman tosses a piece of bread into Eliezer's car. A stampede ensues as dozens of starving men fight for a few crumbs while the German workmen watch, amused. Eliezer notes the savageness of the scene: This Study Guide consists of approximately 24 pages of chapter summaries, quotes, character analysis, themes, and more - everything you need to sharpen your knowledge of Night. Crammed between dead and live bodies, Elie begins to lose hope of surviving. By morning, he locates his father's wilting body but gets no response from Chlomo. The train halts in a deserted field to dump several hundred corpses. Elie slaps Chlomo awake to save him from the "grave diggers," a euphemism for an unfeeling crew who abandons corpses on the ground. The prisoners live on snow for ten days traveling through the German countryside. A German workman instigates a stampede by tossing bread to starving men, who brawl with each other for scraps. Other Germans mimic the condescending gesture by initiating more deadly scrambles for vitals. A son named Meir beats his father and snatches a crust from his grasp; both men die as others join in the deadly scuffle for bread.During an unprovoked attack on Elie, Chlomo and Meir Katz fend off a... (read more from the Chapter 7 Summary) Copyrights Night from BookRags. (c)2025 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved. Chapter 5 Summary Abandonment and Separation The chapter begins with the stark realization of loss as items the characters had carried through their journey are abandoned. As they are ordered to separate by gender, Elie Wiesel experiences the emotional trauma of leaving his mother and sister, Tzipora, behind. The sense of confusion and fear grows among the prisoners, punctuated by the brutality of the SS officers, who demonstrate their indifference to human life. Shock and Revelations Elie and his father are interrogated by an older inmate who insists on altering their ages for survival, indicating the life-and-death stakes of their situation. This inmate reveals the grim fate awaiting them, describing the crematoria where people are burned to death. Elie grapples with disbelief, suggesting a desperate need to revolt against their condition, but older prisoners plead for hope, leading to a temporary dampening of rebellion. Encounter with Dr. Mengele As they approach Dr. Mengele, infamous for his inhumane selections, Elie's fleeting hope is that he and his father would remain together. Despite not knowing the implications of turning left or right, Elie and his father manage to stay together and escape the immediate threat of the crematoria, although fear remains palpable. Arrival at the Barracks They arrive at a long barrack, seeing other inmates subjected to brutal treatment. Here, they are stripped of their identities, forced to abandon their clothes in a chaotic show of dehumanization. They endure harsh conditions and the pain of separation from their former selves. Elie suddenly realizes that he is amid a living nightmare, witnessing the destruction of lives and innocence. Life in Auschwitz The following mornings blur into a routine of survival, marked by fleeting moments of humanity amidst brutality. They navigate through showers, clothing distributions, and tattooing of numbers. The reality of life in Auschwitz begins to settle, where having a new name replaces their individual identities. Despair and Loss of Faith Elie struggles with his faith as the horror of their situation unfolds. His thoughts are divided between survival instincts and the overwhelming grief for lost loved ones. He reflects not only on his current suffering but also on the broader existential questions posed by their predicament. Despite the attempts of fellow prisoners to find solace in spirituality or community, Elie finds himself wading deeper into despair. Encounter with Stein An encounter with a distant relative, Stein, brings a momentary connection, as he seeks news about his family. Elie lies to give Stein hope, showcasing the dire impact of their situation on human relationships and emotional survival. Upcoming Transports Eventually, the group learns they are to be transported again to another camp, creating a sense of anxiety. As they leave, they witness the indifference of the surrounding German populace, contrasting their misery with the normalcy of life outside the camps. The chapter closes with their arrival at Buna, the next stage in their struggle for survival. [caption id="" align="aligncenter" width="600"] Eliezer "Elie" Wiesel won the Nobel Prize Peace Prize in 1986 for spreading his message of peace after his horrific experiences as a Holocaust survivor. This article will give you a summary of the book Night by Elie Wiesel. Chapter 1: Eliezer Wiesel grew up in Sighet, a small town in Transylvania. He is a strict Orthodox Jew who is tutored by Moshe the Beadle. When all foreign Jews are expelled, Moshe is deported. He returns to Sighet with horrific tales. Nobody believes him. Fascists gain control in Hungary and allow the Nazis to come. The Jews of Sighet remain in denial that anything bad will happen to them. Days later the town is ordered to evacuate. Eliezer's family is part of the last group. Their former Gentile servant, Martha, warns them of impending danger and offers them a place of refuge. They refuse. Chapter 2: Eliezer and his townsmen are packed into cattle cars and suffer terribly. One woman, Madame Schacter, continually screams of a fire. She is silenced by her fellow prisoners. As the train arrives at Birkenau, they see smoke rising from chimneys and are inundated with the horrific smell of burning flesh. Chapter 3: The first selection occurs. Eliezer and his father lie about their age and avoid the crematorium. As they walk to Auschwitz they pass a pit of burning babies. When they arrive in their barracks they are disinfected with gasoline, receive a tattoo, and are dressed in prison clothes. Eliezer's father asks to go to the bathroom and is clobbered by a kapo - a fellow prisoner tasked with supervising other prisoners. The prisoners are then escorted to Buna, a work camp four hours away. Analysis: Wiesel emphasizes the human failure to comprehend just how evil humans can be. He and his family are warned several times to flee, yet they and the town find the truth impossible. Wiesel's primary goal in publishing Night is to prevent another Holocaust from happening. He emphasizes the need to be aware of evil in the world and to believe first hand accounts of it. His recounting of the miserable conditions on the cattle cars and the horrific events he witnesses at Birkenau are examples of first hand accounts that must be taken seriously in order to prevent something as horrible from happening again. Chapters 4-5 Chapter 4: At Buna, Eliezer is summoned by the dentist to have his gold crown removed. He feigns illness. The dentist, he discovers, is hanged. Eliezer's only focus is to eat and stay alive. He is savagely beaten by the kapo, Idek and is consoled by a French worker, whom he meets years after the war. The prison foreman, Frankel, notices Eliezer's gold crown and demands it. He refuses. Frankel beats Eliezer's father and he gives up the crown. Eliezer catches Idek having sex with a Polish girl. Idek whips him mercilessly and warns him that one word of what he saw will result in more severe punishment. During an air raid two cauldrons of soup are left unattended. A prisoner crawls to them and is shot right before eating some. The Nazis erect a gallows at camp and hang three prisoners, the last one, a boy loved by all, causes even the most-jaded of prisoners to weep. Chapter 5: It is late summer 1944 and another selection occurs. This time Eliezer's father is on the wrong side. He gives his spoon and knife to his son. Eliezer rejoices as he returns and discovers there was another selection and his father still lives. Eliezer hurts his foot and is sent to the infirmary. He hears rumors of Russians approaching. The Nazis evacuate the camp. Eliezer assumes infirmary patients will be killed so he leaves. He discovers later that the patients were liberated the next day. Chapters 6-7 Chapter 6: The prisoners are forced to run 42 miles in one night during a blizzard. Those unable to keep up are shot. The refugees stop in a small village where Eliezer and his father keep each other awake to avoid freezing to death. Rabbi Eliahu enters a small shack occupied by Eliezer, looking for his son. Eliezer recalls-after Eliahu's departure-seeing his son desert his father, something he prays for strength never to do. Another selection occurs. Eliezer's father is sent to the death side. A diversion is created and his father switches lines. Chapter 7: The survivors are packed into cattle cars and sent to Germany. The train stops frequently to remove dead bodies. Eliezer recounts how German workers throw bread into the cattle cars to witness the prisoners kill each other. Eliezer is nearly killed. Analysis: Wiesel attributes his survival to luck and coincidence, two ideas that play a prominent role in the novel. Each selection is a matter of luck and coincidence; being assigned to easier jobs is a matter of luck and coincidence; leaving the infirmary is a matter of luck and coincidence. Wiesel honestly portrays his feelings toward his father. He recognizes that his father gives him strength to continue; he acknowledges also that his father at times becomes a burden. Chapters: 8-9 Chapter 8: Upon their arrival at Buchenwald, Eliezer's father is unable to move. Eliezer brings him soup and coffee, against the advice of other prisoners who counsel him to keep it for himself. Eliezer's father, suffering from dysentery, begs for water. An SS guard becomes annoyed and knocks him in the head. Eliezer wakes up the next morning and discovers his father's empty bed. He is more relieved than sad. Chapter 9: Eliezer is only concerned with food during his remaining months at Buchenwald. On April 5, the evacuation of Buchenwald is ordered. Nazis murder thousands daily. On April 10, Eliezer's block is ordered to evacuate, but it is cut short by air raid sirens. The next day the camp is liberated. Wiesel nearly dies from food poisoning. He recovers, looks in a mirror, and is shocked by his appearance. Analysis: Eliezer's reflection that he resembled a corpse ends the novel with a sense of hopelessness. Despite this hopelessness Wiesel dedicates his life to human rights. For an activity involving Elie Wiesel's website, follow the link. This post is part of the series: Night Study Guide This study guide provides all you need to review. Chapter 7 "Pressed up against the others"Summary:Inside the train bodies, both dead and alive, are tangled up in each other. Eliezer feels indifferent to everything, including death. Eliezer's father is near him, but does not respond to his call and seems dead. When the train stops, SS officers order that corpses be thrown out of the car. Two men begin to throw Eliezer's father out of the train, but Eliezer revives him by slapping him viciously and screaming desperately in his face. Twenty bodies are thrown out of the wagon. The prisoners travel for ten days, eating only snow. Day is like night. Once, some German workmen begin throwing bread into the car and stand around watching as the prisoners tear each other to death for scraps. Desperate for food, the prisoners behave like wild beasts. Eliezer resolves not to fight for the food and notices one man who kills his own father for a piece of bread. Then, the son is killed for the same bread, and both father and son lie dead side by side. Eliezer notes at this point in the narrative that he is fifteen years old. On the third night of the journey, Eliezer is awakened when someone randomly tries to strangle him. He calls to his father at the last minute and is saved by a man named Meir Katz, who had been a gardener at the Buna camp and was therefore more healthy and robust than everyone else. However, a few days later Meir Katz begins to cry, having finally lost his will to live. On the last day of the journey, there is a bitter wind, and everyone gets up in order to try to keep warm. All the prisoners begin imitating the death cry of a fellow prisoner, and Meir Katz wonders out loud why the SS guards don't just shoot them all right away. Finally, they reach the camp, and only twelve people (of the original hundred) have the strength to leave the wagon. The others, including Meir Katz, remain on the train to die. They are at Buchenwald. Analysis:While crowded into the train, Eliezer becomes indifferent to life or death, but he does not entirely lose his will to live: "Indifference deadened the spirit. Here or elsewhere-what difference did it make? To die today or tomorrow, or later? The night was long and never ending." Eliezer does not want to die immediately because to him the distinction between life and death has become irrelevant. He is currently experiencing a living hell, and as he repeatedly remarks, the surviving prisoners are now no better than corpses. Everyone is dying, some more quickly than others, and the darkness of night has taken over the day. In this passage Wiesel once again expands on the symbolic meaning of the title Night. "Night" here refers to the living death of the concentration camps that Eliezer does not think will ever end. Eliezer is continually amazed at how inhumane and beastlike the prisoners can become. Every time that he thinks he and the prisoners have suffered as much pain as they can bear and have behaved as cruelly as possible to one another, the Nazis lead them to behave even more basely and without human respect. The episode where German workmen throw bread into the train demonstrates that the prisoners are maniacally focused on getting food, at the expense of even their closest relations. They have become predatory animals: "Wild beasts of prey, with animal hatred in their eyes; an extraordinary vitality had seized them, sharpening their teeth and nails." Having been starved for ten days, the prisoners are willing to kill each other for bread. A young man even kills his father for a piece of bread. In this world there is no morality, but neither is there a need for the prisoners to live by any standard of morality. For they are no longer living in a world of social responsibility and respectability, and it makes perfect sense for them to behave as animals, without any regard to familial ties. The Nazis have created this environment, and the prisoners have no choice but to disregard the normal rules of human society. At the end of this brief section, all the prisoners start imitating the death cry of one of the prisoners. The initial noise-"the cry of a wounded animal"-spreads to the entire train and indicates how ready the prisoners are to die. As Wiesel writes, "All limits had been passed. No one had any strength left. And again the night would be long." Life is no longer something that Eliezer and the other prisoners want to fight for; instead, it has become a painful, burdensome existence that they simply want to be free of. No one has any strength left to live, which, however, does not translate into any active desire to die. Instead, they wish passively for the Nazis to put them out of their misery. However, the Nazis probably realize that it is much more torturous to keep the prisoners alive rather than to kill them immediately.