

DUE DATE IN CLASS	Assignments Due:	Reading	Pages
Wed. 9/27	Discussion 1	Section/Chapter 1	Pages 3-22
	ARG 1	Section/ Chapter 2	pp: 23-28
Fri. 9/29	Discussion 2	Section/ Chapter 3	pp: 29-46
	ARG 2	Section/ Chapter 4	pp: 47-65
		Section/ Chapter 5	pp: 66-84
Thurs. 10/5	Discussion 3	Section/ Chapter 6	pp: 85-97
	ARG 3	Section/ Chapter 7	pp: 98-103
	Conflicts	Section/ Chapter 8	pp: 104-112
	Final Exam	Section/ Chapter 9	pp: 113-115

Cabala/ Kabbalah-Jewish Mysticism, a study in Judaism that focuses on deeper, sometimes coded messages in scripture

Talmud- the body of Jewish civil and ceremonial law and legend comprising the



Mishnah and the Gemara. This includes Torah as well as teachings of Rabbis who came before, ancestral Rabbis.

Hasidic Jews-The appearance of Hasidic men particularly sets them apart. Traditionally, a married Hasidic man wears a long beard, braids of hair hanging down from his temples, a dark suit, and on the Sabbath a large fur hat called a *shtreimel*. The Hasidim believe that their dress proclaims that they are servants of God. It reminds non-Jews and themselves that they are part of a religious discipline that appreciates separateness.

Phylacteries- n. small boxes containing scripture, worn by some Jewish men for daily prayer.



Chapters 1 and 2

Time and Place

The town of Sighet, where *Night* begins, has been a part of both Romania and Hungary at various times. During Wiesel's childhood, Sighet was home to 15,000 Jews. Most were devout Hasidic Jews whose lives focused on family, religion, and learning. Like most of their Jewish neighbors, the Wiesels were poor but intensely committed to education. For young Elie that meant spending his days and evenings studying sacred Jewish texts such as the Torah and the Talmud. At the age of twelve, Wiesel began exploring *cabbala*, or Jewish mysticism—an approach to Bible study that analyzes hidden meanings in the text.

As World War II progressed, Wiesel's father Chlomo began helping Jews escape from Poland, risking his life to help others escape Nazi persecution. Chlomo continued to believe that he and his family would not be separated.

Did You Know?

Judaism dates back nearly 4,000 years. It shares many ideas with—and in fact is an ancestor to—both Christianity and Islam. These three religions all originated in the same part of the world, the area we now call the Middle East. The sacred texts of all three religions overlap in several ways. The Hebrew Bible is what Christians call the Old Testament. Many of these Bible stories also appear in the Islamic sacred text, the Qur'an.

Vocabulary

Compatriots-n. fellow countrymen

Edict-n. official statement, law

Expound- v. to set forth in detail

Firmament-n. the sky, or heavens

Hermetically-adv. completely sealed; airtight

Pestilential-adj. filled with disease; contagious

Pillage-v. to rob with open violence

Premonition-n. anticipation of an event, usually negative; even without actual warning

Truncheon- n. police officer's stick



Chapters 3-5

Time and Place

The Nazis opened the first concentration camp in 1933, soon after Hitler became German Chancellor. In the years leading up to war, Hitler imprisoned thousands more people. Once Hitler began invading other lands, the demand for camps skyrocketed. Jews imprisoned during these early years were often kept only long enough to convince them to flee German-held lands. Many did, though without going far enough to escape later reimprisonment. Auschwitz, where Wiesel was initially taken, opened in 1940. With its reception centers, such as Birkenau, Auschwitz eventually became the largest of the camps.

In 1941, Hitler invaded Russia and was plunged into the first long battle of the war. He needed supplies and weapons. Thus, many of the camps became forced labor centers that used prisoners to fuel the Nazi death machine. In 1942, at the Wannsee

Conference, Hitler and his allies developed the official policy known as the “final solution.” Under this plan, Jews would be worked until they collapsed and then they would be killed. Hitler’s scientists first experimented with “mercy killings” on people who were mentally ill. Methods for mass murders, such as lethal injection and poisonous gas, were later developed. Gas chambers were added to six camps, mass extermination began in earnest. More than 1.25 Million people were killed at Auschwitz alone.

Did You Know?

Insufficient food and the lack of a balanced diet led to malnutrition and starvation for many concentration camp prisoners. When people are undernourished, their bodies cannot grow or repair themselves properly. People lose weight and are more likely to fall ill. Children who are still growing suffer even more problems. Some common diseases that result from malnutrition are scurvy and beriberi, in which a lack of vitamins and minerals weaken bones and cause stomach problems.

Vocabulary

Bestial-adj. like a beast or animal

Blandishments-n. something used to coax or persuade

Crucible- n. container for cooking at a high heat

Emaciated- adj. marked by abnormal thinness caused by starvation or disease

Leptous-adj. showing signs of leprosy, which is an infectious disease that affects body tissue

Manacle-v. to handcuff

Queue- n. waiting line

Wizened-adj. dry, shrunken, wrinkled

Chapters 6-9

Time and Place

The Allies invaded Europe on D-Day, June 6, 1944. At the time of Wiesel’s imprisonment in 1944, Germany was already losing the war. This reality only inflamed Hitler’s desire to exterminate the Jews. Gassings and mass shootings escalated despite calls from the German army for more war production laborers. Many camps were closed in the spring of 1944, not long after Wiesel had reached Auschwitz. While many non-Jews were sent to labor camps, many Jews were sent to the Auschwitz gas chambers.

Did You Know?

Psychologists who study Holocaust survivors have recognized a pattern of reaction to the concentration camp experience. At first, prisoners were stunned and paralyzed by the horror. Many did not survive this early shock, in fact, the highest death toll was among new prisoners. Even if they weren’t selected for death, they fell ill, were grief-stricken by the loss of family members, became exhausted, or simply gave up hope in the face of evil. Those who survived these early experiences recovered some sense of balance. Many have reported that they separated themselves from their surroundings and even their bodies. They focused on surviving one day at a time. With each new onslaught of horror or loss, prisoners repeated this process. Some people became what prisoners called *muselmanner*, or “walking dead.” If a prisoner fell into this state for too long, death was probably imminent. Viktor E. Frankl’s book, *Man’s Search for*

Pre-Reading Information: *Night*

Meaning, offers insightful clues as to why some people survived the psychological horror of concentration camps and others did not.

Vocabulary

Contagion-n. an influence that spreads easily

Embarkation-n. the beginning of a journey

Encumbrance- n. burden

Indeterminate- adj. vague, not fixed in advance

Rivet-v. to hold attention tightly, as if physically attached

Semblance-n. outward appearance, but with a sense of falsity

Vigilance- n. state of extreme watchfulness

Rings discovered after the liberation

