

English I CP I Summer Assignment

I. Reading Assignment

Read *Night* by Elie Wiesel and complete the following by the day of Freshman Orientation.

II. Key Facts

Define the following literary terms:

- Allusion
- Memoir

Narrator: Elie Wiesel

Setting: World War II (1941—1945)

Research and briefly describe these key terms:

- Kaballah
- Kaddish
- Hasidic
- Rosh Hashanah
- Yom Kippur

World War II: An Overview¹

A brief look at the war that changed the world forever

It was the bloodiest, deadliest war the world had ever seen. More than 38 million people died, many of them innocent civilians. It also was the most destructive war in history.

Fighting raged in many parts of the world. More than 50 nations took part in the war, which changed the world forever.

For Americans, World War II had a clear-cut purpose. People knew why they were fighting: to defeat tyranny. Most of Europe had been conquered by Nazi Germany, which was under the iron grip of dictator Adolf Hitler. The war in Europe began with Germany's invasion of Poland in 1939. Wherever the Nazis went, they waged a campaign of terror, mainly against Jews, but also against other minorities.

In Asia and the Pacific, Japanese armies invaded country after country, island after island. On December 7, 1941, Japanese planes bombed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The next day, the U.S. Congress declared war, taking the U.S. into World War II.

What Caused World War II?

Most historians believe that the causes of World War II can be traced to World War I (1914-1918). Americans had fought in that earlier war to "make the world safe for democracy." Those were the words and goals of U.S. President Woodrow Wilson. But the peace treaties that ended World War I did not make the world safe for democracy. Instead, they caused bitterness and anger that led to World War II.

¹ "World War II: An Overview." *Scholastic Teachers*. N.p., n.d. Web. 27 Nov. 2013.

"WWII: The World at War 1941." *WWII: The World at War 1941*. N.p., n.d. Web. 30 Nov. 2013.

Germany and its allies had been the losers in World War I. Germany was stripped of one sixth of its territory and forced to pay huge reparations (payments by a defeated country for the destruction it caused in a war). After World War I, Germany suffered from high unemployment and runaway inflation. German money became almost worthless. Many Germans seethed in anger at the peace treaty.

A League of Nations was set up after World War I to keep the peace. But the U.S. did not join, and other countries were too busy with their own problems to worry about Germany and other trouble spots.

Then, in the early 1930s, the world was hit by an economic depression. Workers lost their jobs, trade fell off, and times were hard. People looked for leaders who could bring about change.

Rise of Dictatorships

Germany, Italy, and Japan all came under the rule of dictators or military leaders. A dictator named Mussolini took power in Italy in 1922. Military leaders took control of Japan in the early 1930s. In Germany, Adolf Hitler, leader of the Nazi Party, gained power in 1933. These leaders promised to restore their countries to greatness. But they set up totalitarian governments. (A totalitarian government is controlled by a single political party that allows no opposition and tightly controls people's lives.)

Hitler began to arm Germany for war. Japan invaded China. Mussolini sent Italian troops to conquer Ethiopia, in Africa. None of the world's democracies did anything to stop them.

A World at War

Hitler had a plan to conquer Europe. He began by taking Austria, then Czechoslovakia. Again, no one tried to stop him. As Winston Churchill, who became Britain's wartime leader, said, "Britain and France had to choose between war and dishonor. They chose dishonor. They will have war."

Churchill's words came true. In 1939, German troops invaded Poland. World War II in Europe had begun. The U.S. did not enter the war until December 1941, but once it did, it took a leadership role. U.S. troops fought in North Africa, Europe, and the Pacific. At home, Americans rolled up their sleeves to out produce the Axis powers (Germany, Italy, and Japan) in the weapons of warplanes, battleships, and guns. Everyone did their part.

A Changed World

Germany surrendered on May 7, 1945, ending the war in Europe. The war in the Pacific did not end until after the U.S. dropped two atomic bombs on Japan — the only time such bombs were ever used in war. Japan surrendered on August 14, 1945.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who had led the U.S. in wartime, did not live to see peace. But in a speech written but never delivered, he spoke of the need to preserve peace: "Today we are faced with the preeminent [above all other] fact that, if civilization is to survive, we must cultivate the science of human relationships — the ability of all peoples, of all kinds, to live together and work together in the same world, at peace."



Night: Character Chart

As you read, write a detailed description of each character in the space provided below. Use at least ONE quote per character. Cite the page numbers in MLA format. Example: "Quote" (Autor page#).

Eliezer Wiesel	Moishe the Beadle	Shlomo Wiesel	Maria
Mrs. Schächter	Dr. Mengele	Stein of Antwerp	Juliek

Franek	Yosi and Tibi	Idek	Akiba Drumer
Zalman	Rabbi Eliahou	Meir Katz	Alphonse

Night: Chapter Questions

Section 1

1. Describe Moishe the Beadle.
2. Describe Elie Wiesel's father. What was his occupation?
3. Why was Moshe the Beadle important to Elie Wiesel?
4. Summarize the story Moishe the Beadle told on his return from being deported. Why did he say he had returned to Sighet?
5. What was the public reaction to Moishe's story?
6. What was the setting and the year for the first section of the book? What was the world condition at the time?
7. Describe, in order, the events that happened from the last day of Passover until Pentecost.
8. How did Wiesel say he felt about the Hungarian police?
9. Who was Maria? What happened when she visited the Wiesel family in the ghetto?

Section 2 and 3

1. To what did Wiesel compare the world?
2. What did Mrs. Schächter see in her vision?
3. How did the other people in the car react to Mrs. Schächter?

4. Where did the train stop?
5. What did the Jews in the train car discover when they looked out the window?
6. Which notorious SS officer did they meet at Auschwitz?
7. What was Elie's main thought as the men and women were being herded from the train?
8. What prayer were the people saying? Why was it unusual?
9. What did Elie do when the gypsy struck his father? Why? What was his father's response?
10. How long were Elie and his father at Auschwitz? Where did they go after that?

Section 4

1. Describe Elie's encounter with the dentist?
2. What did Elie do when Idek hit his father? What was he thinking?
3. Who took Elie's gold tooth? Why did Elie give it up?
4. What were the only things in which Elie took an interest?
5. How did Elie describe the men after the air raid?
6. What happened to the young man from Warsaw? Why?

7. How did Elie say the soup tasted the night the *pipel* (young servant boy) was hanged?

Section 5

1. What did the men do on the eve of Rosh Hashanah?
2. How did Elie feel while the others were praying?
3. What was Elie's decision about fasting on Yom Kippur? Why did he make that decision?
4. What was Elie's "inheritance" from his father? Why was his father giving it to him?
5. Did the men remember to say the Kiddish for Adiba Drumer?
6. What did Elie dream of when he dreamed of a better world?
7. What happened to the patients who stayed in the hospital instead of being evacuated?
8. What was the last thing the head of the block ordered the men to do before they evacuated? Why?
9. What was the weather like during the evacuation?

Sections 6, 7, 8, and 9

1. While running, an idea began to fascinate Elie. What was the idea? What kept him from carrying out his idea?
2. What did Elie realize about Rabbi Eliahou and his son?
3. What was the name of the camp to which the men walked?

4. Describe Elie's meeting with Juliek.
5. How long were they at Gleiwitz? Where did they go next?
6. Who was Meir Katz? What happened to him?
7. How many men started out in the train? How many were left when they arrived at Buchenwald?
8. What happened to Mr. Wiesel, Elie's father?
9. What was Elie's only desire?
10. What happened on April 10, 1945?