

Night - Reading Comprehension Questions

Remember to answer in complete sentences or points will be deducted.

Section One:

1. Who was Moshe the Beadle? Why was Moshe an important figure in Wiesel's life?
2. Do you think religion is important in Elie's young life? Why or why not?
3. Why did Elie's father refuse to sell his business and move to Palestine?
4. After the leaders of the Jewish community were arrested, what were the orders to the other Jews?
5. What is the ghetto like?
6. At first, why were the Jews unconcerned about being placed in the ghettos?
7. Soon afterwards, what happened to make them change their minds?
8. How did the Hungarian police treat the Jews as they told them the time had come?

Section Two:

1. German officers count and threaten the Jewish people in the cattle car, what is the threat they use?
2. Do you think the German officers see the Jewish people in the cattle car as humans? Why or why not?
3. What had happened to Madame Schächter to make her behave as she did?
4. How did other people in the car react to her shouting at first?
5. How did the men finally silence her?
6. When the cattle car reached a station, where were they?
7. What do the two men that get water say about the station? How do the others react to this news?
8. After the train moves again, what did the Jews in the cattle car see when they looked out the window? What can they smell?
9. What did Madame Schächter foreshadow?

Section Three:

1. Wiesel says the travelers "left their illusions behind" when they were arriving to the camp off the train. What do you think he means by this?
2. As they arrived at Auschwitz, why is Elie afraid when he sees two lines separating men from women and children?
3. In the book, Wiesel writes, "Behind me, an old man fell to the ground. Near him was an SS man, putting his revolver back in its holster." What actually happened in this scene?
4. Why did the prisoner tell Elie and his father to lie about their ages?
5. What was Dr. Mengele's role at Auschwitz?
6. What was in the lorry that was brought to the fire pit that makes Elie write, "Is it any wonder that ever since then, sleep tends to elude me"?
7. What does Elie hear from others around him that makes him begin to question God?
8. Beginning with giving up their clothes, think of the process all new prisoners went through when they came to the camp. Why do you think they were made to do this?
9. What did the young Pole, the prisoner in charge say that were the "first human words" to Elie?

Section Four:

1. What was the unfortunate incident with Elie's shoes?
2. What did Yossi, Tibi, and Elie have in common that made them become friends?
3. How was Elie able to get out of having his crown pulled from his mouth? What warning did the dentist give him?
4. What did the French girl do that surprised Elie?
5. Why was Elie angry with his father when Idek beat him?
6. Franek wanted Elie's gold crown. What did he do to convince him to give it up?
7. Why was Elie beaten with a whip? What had he seen?
8. Why and for whom were the gallows set up the first time?
9. What happened to the pipel, the one with the face of a sad angel? What had he done?
10. How does Elie describe the food at the end of the chapter?

Section Five:

1. On the last day of this year, how was the way the prisoners looked at Rosh Hashanah different from the way they used to view the Jewish New Year?
2. How do Elie's thoughts show that he is losing faith in God?
3. What was the "fine New Year's gift" the SS gave the prisoners?
4. Rations had become more meager. Is that a good or a bad thing? Why or why not?
5. What was Elie's "inheritance"?
6. What was Elie's father's fate at the second selection?
7. Elie's neighbor in the hospital says, "I have more faith in Hitler than in anyone else. He alone has kept his promises, all his promises, to the Jewish people." What do you think he means by this?
8. Why does Elie leave the hospital?
9. What would have happened to Elie if he had stayed in the hospital after his surgery?
10. What was the last act performed by the men an hour before leaving camp? Why?

Section Six:

1. Why do you think the men were forced to run in the snow? What would happen if they didn't?
2. What happened to men underfoot? Why did no one pay attention to them?
3. Why wouldn't Elie allow himself to go to sleep again in the shed, even as his father watched over him?
4. As Rabbi Eliahou came looking for his son, what did we learn about his son that Elie saw?
5. Upon arrival at Gleiwitz, Elie and his father were thrown into a mass of bodies. How did this happen to them?
6. While he was trapped under bodies, Elie heard a rattling cry from somewhere beneath them. It was an old friend Juliek. What was Juliek most concerned about?
7. Why do you think Juliek played that night?
8. What happened to Elie's father as the selection was taking place? How did the confusion save him?

Section Seven:

1. Why did the train stop in the middle of a deserted field? How did the prisoners react to this?

2. What did Elie compare to the Germans throwing bread into the wagon?
3. What does the son do for bread?
4. Elie's father is saved from death twice, how is he saved?
5. What does Meir Katz wonder about the Germans? Do you think this is merciful? Why or why not?
6. Of the one hundred who had started the journey, how many climbed down from the train at Buchenwald?

Section Eight:

1. After waiting so long in the snow and icy wind, why were the prisoners finally allowed to go into the blocks?
2. Why does Elie not want his father to sit down?
3. What did Elie do that made him feel "ashamed forever"?
4. Why weren't the sick prisoners given anything to eat?
5. What does the block leader tell Elie about his father?
6. How does Elie feel about this?
7. As Chlomo lie on his bed near death, what did he feel he needed to tell Elie?
8. Elie took his father to see the doctor who would not treat him for his dysentery because he was a surgeon and that wasn't his business. When a second doctor came to the block, he was there for only one reason. What was the reason?
9. Do you think it is natural for Eliezer to feel like his father is a burden and to feel a sense of relief when he dies? Does this make Eliezer a bad person? Should he feel guilty about it or not?

Section Nine:

1. After Elie's father died, Elie could think of only one thing. What was that?
2. What makes the Jews nervous about the allies who would free them getting closer to the camp? What do they think the Germans will do?
3. The evacuations did not take place and were postponed until the following day. Instead, the resistance decided to act. What was the result?
4. Coincidentally, what took place at 6:00 that evening?
5. What was ironic about Elie's bout with food poisoning shortly after the liberation?
6. What does Elie see in the hospital that makes him say "that vision of [himself] has stayed with [him] forever"?
7. In what ways do the SS officers and others in the concentration camps attempt to strip the prisoners of their humanity? How do they make prisoners "bodies" as opposed to human beings?
8. Eliezer's identity upon entering the concentration camp is that of a child, a student of Talmud. What is his identity when he leaves?