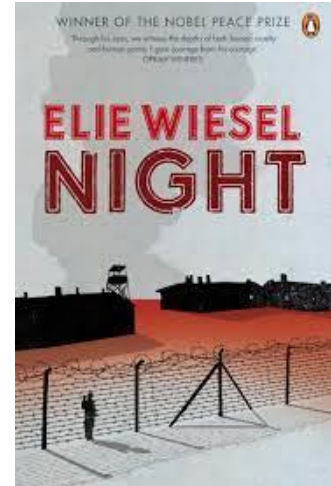


Night

Elie Wiesel

Reading Group Questions

1. Does the context of *Night* being a survivor's account give the book greater impact than historical fiction? Do you relate to Eliezer in a different way from how you might relate to a fictional character?
2. Even though we know the protagonist will survive to write this book, does it still come as a surprise to find out he survived after everything he went through?
3. Wiesel asks himself, 'Did I write it so as not to go mad or, on the contrary, to go mad in order to understand the nature of madness?' (page vii). To what extent does Wiesel put his mental well-being at risk to write *Night*? Or, does the book suggest that writing is a healing process?
4. Why does no one believe Moishe the Beadle's warning in the beginning? Why are they so disastrously optimistic?
5. Faith plays a significant role in *Night*. How does Eliezer's faith in God and religion change over the course of the book?
6. What symbolic meanings does the title 'night' have in connection to the rest of the book?
7. What is the significance of the recurring motifs of flames and snow?
8. Eliezer is the central character in the book, but by no means the only one. What do we learn of (and from) the other characters?
9. How does the father/son relationship develop throughout the book? Does it have symbolic meaning?
10. At the start of *Night*, Eliezer is 12 years old. At the end, he is 16. Does its perspective seem that of a child/young adult?
11. What part of the book has stayed with you the most? What was your immediate impression after reading, and has it changed since?



12. If you could ask Wiesel a question, what would you ask?

A Survivors Perspective

Eugene Black

Like Elie Wiesel, Eugene Black was imprisoned in Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1944, both of them at the age of fifteen, when the Nazis occupied Hungary (which extended the reach of the Holocaust to Wiesel's home, which is now part of Romania, and Eugene Black's home, which was first part of Czechoslovakia). In his survivor's testimony, Eugene Black expressed his feeling that "There's something to be said, how cruel humanity is. I believe very strongly that as humans we are worse than animals." However, he also saw his wife Annie as his saviour, and explained that, "You must always have hope." He wished to stop any comparable atrocity from occurring by sharing his story. This seems to match Wiesel's view that though the Holocaust was the greatest, most incomprehensible act of evil of all time, yet there must still be some hope. Night is the first in a trilogy; Dawn and Day follow, reflecting the new start which had to come following the darkest time for humanity.



<https://holocaustlearning.org.uk/stories/eugene-black/>