



Night, by Elie Wiesel

In A Nutshell

When Elie Wiesel was liberated from the Buchenwald concentration camp in April 1945, he decided to wait for ten years before writing his memoirs of the Holocaust. *Night* is the story of Elie Wiesel surviving Nazi concentration camps as a teenager. The original Yiddish publication of *Night* was 900 pages and titled *And the World Remained Silent*. Despite low sales originally, *Night* has now been translated into thirty languages and has become a classic. *Night* is the first book in a trilogy – *Night*, *Dawn*, and then *Day*, probably referring to a transition in state of mind. That is, in this first book, he is in a state of darkness. Of *Night*, Elie Wiesel says, "If in my lifetime I was to only write one book, this would be the one."

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Big Picture Study Questions

- 1 Why don't the Jews in Sighet listen to the warnings of the danger to come? Why are they so persistently optimistic?
- 2 Why does suffering so often lead to a loss of faith? Why does suffering sometimes lead to an increase in faith?

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- 3 Is it worse to die or to be separated from your family? Does Elie Wiesel make a distinction between the two? Does he argue that one is worse than the other?

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