

English 3

Summer Reading: Wiesel's *Night*

These questions are designed to help you efficiently spot important features of *Night* as you read it independently. Please answer the questions thoroughly in writing, including specific details (quotes and paraphrases). We will begin the new school year in September discussing these and other issues from the novel; be prepared to contribute your ideas and responses to the text in class.

1. At the beginning of the book, Wiesel tells the story of Moishe the Beadle. Why do you think none of the people in the village, including Wiesel, believed Moishe when he returned?
2. Faith is a powerful thing, able to keep people alive longer than may be expected, and gives some the strength to keep fighting. One of the few things Wiesel describes about his childhood and life before the Holocaust is his faith. How does his faith change?
3. A title can sometimes have a deeper meaning than simply being that. Why do you think Wiesel chose "Night"? What are the literal as well as symbolic meanings of "night" in the book?
4. At Birkenau, Eliezer considers ending his life by running into the electric fence. His father tells him to remember Mrs. Schächter, who had become delusional on the train. What might account for the fact that Eliezer and his father were able to keep their wits about them while others slipped into madness?
5. Eliezer observes the now-infamous inscription above the entrance to Auschwitz, equating work with liberty. How does that inscription come to embody the deceit and bitter irony of the Nazi camps? What was the "work" of the prisoners? Were any of the Auschwitz survivors ever liberated emotionally?