



# Night Study Guide

**Student Name:**

## **Be a Better Reader**

As you work through the study guide for *Night*, you'll also practice these skills, which will help you when you read novels in the future, for school assignments or just for fun.

1. Describe how characters in a novel are developed.
2. Describe the plot development and structure of a novel.
3. Describe and analyze the role of setting in a novel.
4. Identify and analyze the themes in a novel.
5. Identify and analyze an author's purpose and perspective.
6. Explain how historical context affects readers' understanding and appreciation of a novel.

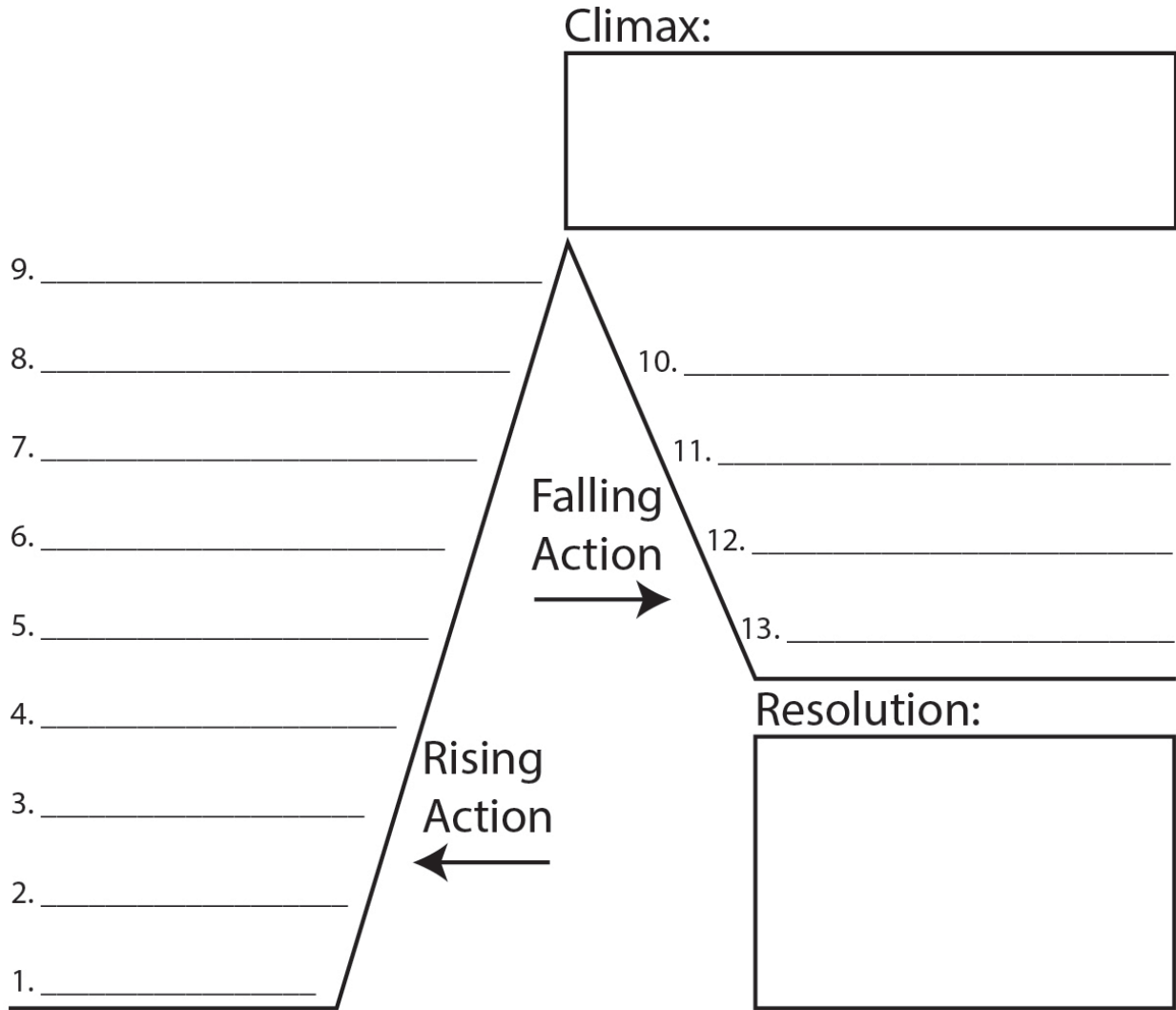
## **Behind the Scenes**

*Night* is based on the experiences of Hungarian Jewish author Eliezer ("Elie") Wiesel. The book describes Wiesel's encounters with prejudice towards and persecution of the Jews during the Holocaust. When Wiesel was twelve years old, his hometown of Sighet was invaded by Nazis, and Wiesel and his family were imprisoned in the Nazi death camp of Auschwitz. *Night* details much of the horrors that Wiesel and many others endured in Auschwitz and other concentration camps.

After the war, Wiesel studied in Paris and later worked as a journalist, traveling between Israel and the United States. Initially, he had trouble writing about and publishing his accounts of the Holocaust. Publishers believed that few people would want to read his recollections as vivid, real, and painful as they were. Eventually, though, *Night* was published, and today it remains one of the most widely read and taught novels about the Holocaust.

## The Plot

As you read *Night*, fill in the boxes for each element of the novel's plot.



## The Characters

Throughout *Night*, the reader is exposed to a variety of characters. Use the space below to help organize your thoughts about each character. Consider who the characters are, at what point in the story you meet them, and how they relate to the themes of the book.

Character	Lesson Learned
Eliezer Wiesel	
Sholomo	
Moshe the Beadle	
Akiba Drumer	
Madame Schächter	
Juliek	
Dr. Josef Mengele	
Idek	
Franek	
Rabbi Eliahou	
Zalman	
Meir Katz	
Stein	

## The Setting

There are two important aspects to the setting of *Night*.

1. The first aspect is the time frame of the events. Wiesel’s account is taking place during World War II, which lasted from 1940 to 1945. Knowing this helps provide you with the historical context of what occurred during World War II and the Holocaust.
2. The second aspect of the setting is the locations throughout the book. These include the major locations of the town of Sighet, as well as the concentration camps of Auschwitz and Buchenwald.

Use the spaces below to describe the settings and the events that take place in each location. In the first column, type or write direct quotes from the novel—phrases and sentences that are used to detail the settings throughout the book. In the second column, explain in your own words what these details show or suggest about the novel's themes and characters. Remember, your description should include details about the historical, political, and physical settings of *Night*.

Direct Quote Related to Setting	Your Explanation

## Tracking Themes

Some of the main themes in the book include:

- Faith and the struggle to maintain it
- Silence
- The symbolism of the title, *Night*
- Father-son bonds

There are various other themes that you may also identify and discuss as well.

As you read, track these themes and analyze them based on the questions below.

**Step 1:** What parts of the plot seem related to themes in the novel?

**Step 2:** Which characters seem related to themes in the novel? What changes do you see in characters throughout the book, and how do those changes relate to some of the major themes?

**Step 3:** What symbolism is used throughout the book? What objects, people, and places are representative of the major themes in the story? For example, the original work was written in Yiddish, and the title translated to *And the World Remained Silent*.

**Step 4:** What does the novel's title suggest? Why do you think Wiesel called his novel *Night*?

**Step 5:** Write about one or two of the novel's main themes in your own words.

**Talk About It**

In the space below each question, write an answer based on your own experiences and your understanding of the plot. Include some textual evidence or examples that helped you arrive at your answers.

1. One of Wiesel's greatest struggles is his struggle to maintain his faith. Describe his faith during the stages of the novel. What events most shake the author's faith? What examples show that Wiesel's faith is still intact at the end of the novel?

Textual Evidence:

2. Throughout World War II, the Nazis attempted to dehumanize the Jewish people. Early in the novel, instances of dehumanization include the ghetto and the Yellow Star. As the novel progresses and Wiesel arrives at the concentration camp, he notes that he "became A-7713. From then on, I had no other name."

What impact did this process of dehumanization have on the Jewish people? What effects did it have on Wiesel and others throughout the novel?

Textual Evidence:

Demonstrate your knowledge of *Night* and the lessons it teaches readers about the Holocaust. Choose one of these projects to complete and share with your teacher, classmates, and others.

### **Choice 1: Thematic Slideshow Presentation**

Throughout the book, the themes of *Night* resonate through the experiences of Eliezer Wiesel. In this project, you will choose one of those themes and demonstrate how it impacts characters throughout *Night*.

In your slideshow, you should include the following:

- A minimum of five fully developed slides
- Each slide should contain a quote from the book and an explanation of the connection to the theme you have chosen
- Each slide should include an accompanying visual that helps to illustrate the thematic connection
- In total, your slideshow should show a progression of the theme throughout *Night* and detail how it impacts the characters

Record yourself presenting your slideshow presentation and explaining your choice of quotes and how they help illustrate and show the progression of the chosen theme.

Upload your presentation as a recorded video of yourself giving the presentation.

## Choice 2: Creative Writing Poster

There are many different ways to express ideas, and one of those is by using poetry. One type of poetry style is pantoum. This is a poem that follows a specific repetition pattern. You can see the 16-line pattern below with an example that uses quotes from *Night* next to the form.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stanza 1<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ line 1</li><li>○ line 2</li><li>○ line 3</li><li>○ line 4</li></ul></li><li>• Stanza 2<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ repeat line 2</li><li>○ line 6</li><li>○ repeat line 4</li><li>○ line 8</li></ul></li><li>• Stanza 3<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ repeat line 6</li><li>○ line 10</li><li>○ repeat line 8</li><li>○ line 12</li></ul></li><li>• Stanza 4<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ repeat line 10</li><li>○ repeat line 3</li><li>○ repeat line 12</li><li>○ repeat line 1</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The race toward death had begun.</li><li>• In everyone's eyes was suffering drowned in tears.</li><li>• The odor of the Angel of Death arises.</li><li>• Ghostlike faces emerge from piles of prison clothes.</li> <li>• In everyone's eyes was suffering drowned in tears.</li><li>• Rivers of pain never meant to run dry.</li><li>• Ghostlike faces emerge from piles of prison clothes.</li><li>• Our faces are forgotten by humanity.</li> <li>• Rivers of pain never meant to run dry,</li><li>• As the tide of our lives is swept out to sea,</li><li>• Our faces are forgotten by humanity</li><li>• While the world keeps moving.</li> <li>• As the tide of our lives is swept out to sea,</li><li>• The odor of the Angel of Death arises</li><li>• While the world keeps moving.</li><li>• The race toward death had begun.</li></ul>
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For this assignment, you will create a pantoum and make a poster of it. Follow the following steps to create your project:

- Choose at least four lines or phrases from *Night* that you feel fit the theme of your poem.
- Write at least four lines or phrases that fit with the lines you have chosen from *Night*.
- Assign each line or phrase a number and create your pantoum. Note, if you'd like to have more than 16 lines, you can just repeat the pattern of the pantoum.
- Then, using your poem, create a poster that includes the poem and at least one or more visuals that help accentuate the theme of your poem.

Upload your final poster as an image or file.