

Wyoming High School Book Rationale

Title: Night

Author: Elie Wiesel

❖ Intended Audience:

- English 10

❖ Brief Summary and Educational Significance:

- Young Eliezer and his family are deported from Sighet to Auschwitz-Birkenau after ignoring warnings about the Nazi threat.
- Eliezer is immediately separated from his mother and sister. He endures horrific conditions and forced labor alongside his father, Shlomo.
- The extreme brutality and witnessed atrocities cause Eliezer to profoundly lose his faith in God.
- As the war nears its end, they are forced on a brutal death march to other camps.
- Eliezer's father dies of exhaustion and illness at Buchenwald. Eliezer experiences a moment of guilt-ridden relief at being free of the burden.
- Eliezer survives until liberation by American troops and becomes a witness to the Holocaust, forever changed by the experience.

❖ Purpose of teaching the work and how it will be used:

- Teach point of view, theme, plot elements, symbolism, empathy, and the importance of speaking out (bearing witness; being an upstander instead of a bystander)
- Connect to World Studies unit on the Holocaust
- Explore relevant text to self, text-to-text, and text-to-world connections, such as social issues

❖ Potential Problems:

- Explicit and Graphic Content, violence, nudity

❖ **Addressing Potential Problems:**

- Honors historical truth: Wiesel's memoir is a testament to survival, not merely an inventory of horrors
- Pairs with 10th grade World History unit on the Holocaust
- Instruction is focused on the major themes (loss of faith, dehumanization, the importance of bearing witness) rather than sensationalizing the violence.