

Summer Reading 2026 for English 12

Students taking English 12 in the fall must read two books during the summer.

1. BOOK 1: *Night* by Elie Weisel. Complete reading guide to prepare for class discussion and in class essay.
 2. BOOK 2: *Fifth Child* by Doris Lessing. Complete reading guide to prepare for test.
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1. Sign out the book from your English teacher in June, or read an electronic copy or a personal copy of the text.
 2. Turn in the book on the first day of school.
 3. Complete an assessment in the first week of school.
 4. Take an in-class writing assessment in the first week of school.

Ch. 1

1. Elie begins his story in _____ when he is _____ years old and yearning to study _____.
2. Summarize Moshe's, the Beadle, spiritual advice to Elie.
3. Why did Eliezer pray and why did he cry when he prayed?
4. Describe the steps by which the Jews are more and more restricted and finally taken to prison.

Ch. 2

1. Describe the conditions of the cattle cars.
2. What was foreshadowed by Madame Schacter's dream?
3. What did some of the passengers do to quiet Madame Schacter?
4. How do the Jews respond to the name Auschwitz?

Ch. 3

1. When questioned by the S.S. officer, why did Elie lie about his age and occupation?
2. What was the first horrifying sight that Elie at first disbelieved?
3. Who is Dr. Mengele?
4. What stops Elie from running into the electric fence?
5. What is the inscription over the entrance to Auschwitz?
6. Describe the advice the young Polish guard gives to the men. Do you think they follow it?

7. Why does Elie lie to Steiner?

10. What do Elie and his father tell themselves about his mother and sisters? Why?

Ch. 4

1. What were the objectives of the dental exams?

2. What are the good parts of Buna?

3. How does Elie interpret his own reaction when Idek beats his father?

4. Whom did Elie meet years later on the Paris Metro?

5. What happened when Elie refused to give his crown to Franek? What was the end result?

6. Why does Idek whip Elie?

7. What did Julieck whisper to Elie during one of the hangings? Why did the soup taste better to Elie that evening?

8. During one hanging, Elie and the others cry. What made this hanging different?

Ch. 5

1. What is Yom Kippur? How does Elie rebel against God?

2. Describe "the selection" process.

3. What is Elie's "inheritance"? What happens later?

4. What breaks Akiba Druma's will to live? What does he ask others to do for him?

5. Why does Elie go to the infirmary?

6. What decision is Elie faced with at the evacuation? What does he decide? What does he learn of the fate of those who stayed behind?

Ch. 6

1. What happened to anyone who could not keep up with the march to Gleiwitz? How did Zalman die?

2. How do Elie and his father take care of each other?

3. Who is Juliek? Describe his last act and how it affects Elie.

4. How does Elie help his father when the selection is made?

Ch. 7

1. Describe the scene as Elie awakens in the cattle car.

2. What happens when bread is tossed in the car?

3. How many were left in the cattle car? Where had they arrived?

Ch. 8

1. Why does Elie say he was like Rabbi Eliahu's son?

2. Why was Elie's father being beaten?

3. What did Elie think of the advice given to him by the head of the block?

4. Do you think Elie betrayed his father? Defend your answer.

Ch. 9

1. What is Elie's one desire during his days at Buchenwald?
2. What does he mean that Hitler was going to keep his promise?
3. What do the prisoners do when they are freed? What *don't* they seek?
4. What does Elie mean when he says "I was alone"?
5. Who is the corpse for Wiesel even today? Explain the last sentence of the book.

Night Names:

Elie—12 at start of memoir

Moshe: Beadle who mentors him; warns town of what happened to his family

Tzipora—his sister

Madame Schacter—dreams of flames, screams and is gagged

Dr. Mengele—German dr. who ran medical experiments in Auschwitz

Stein—his friend from Sighet, lies to him about his wife and kids

Idek—the kapo who has fits of violence for no reason

Juliek—a Pole who played violin in Buna

Yossi and Tibi—brothers whose parents died in B, become Elie's friends

Alphonse-German Jew block leader—got them extra soup

Young French woman—he meets her in Metro in Paris years later from Buna

Franek—the foreman who wants his crown—torments Elie's father until he gets it

Akiba Druma—lost his faith—lost all will to live "grinds down to death"

Rabbi Eliahu—lost his son in march, son purposely loses father-weak. Elie compares himself

Night Places:

Birkenau (Poland) can see the flames of it from Auschwitz

Auschwitz (Poland)

Buna (Poland)

Gleiwitz (Poland) they march to this camp, many fall and die

Buchenwald (Germany) arrive here in cattle cars

1. Describe Harriet.
2. Describe David.
3. What is it that draws them together? What era is it when they meet? Significance of the era? What dream do they have?
4. How do others, including their family, view their dream?
5. What foreshadowing can be detected on page 16?
6. How do the first four pregnancies go for them?
7. How do they view Sarah and William's Down's syndrome child? What effect does this child have on their relationship?
8. Why is the Lovatt home the place to gather on holidays? How does everyone feel about their home? Why is it such a happy place?
9. How has their little town changed in the 5 years they have lived there? (pg 22) What foreshadowing do you see?
10. How and why do the Lovatts become dependent on David's father? What problems do you anticipate with this?
11. What expectations do they have of Harriet's mother? How is this selfish of them?
12. How is Harriet's fifth pregnancy very different from the previous ones?
13. What is the doctor's response to Harriet's complaints about the pregnancy?

14. How does Harriet's mood begin to affect the entire household? What does Harriet eventually resort to and why?
15. Who is Alice and why is she there?
16. Briefly explain the story that David makes up for the children? What are Harriet's concerns about it? What is the irony in connection to the TV program that Harriet turns off? (44)
17. How is the delivery of this fifth child different from the others? Describe this baby. (48-49)
18. How does the infant Ben differ from a normal child in his feeding, development, and his interaction with others?
19. How do the Lovatt's extended family members react to Ben? (56-57)
20. "Benjamin" in Hebrew means "son of the south" "son of the right hand" 12th and youngest son of Jacob; HOWEVER "Ben"- (shortened) means "son of my sorrow" named by his mother Rachel who died shortly after giving birth to him- how do you find this significant to the story?
21. What does Ben do to Paul? What decision does Alice make and why?
22. By 1975 how has Ben's behavior progressed? How does Harriet react? The extended family?
23. Where do they go on vacation and why? How does the family react to being away from Ben?
24. When they return what is Dorothy's mood and what does she think they should do? (66-67)
25. What is the overall consensus of the family and why? Do you agree or disagree? (71-75)
26. Where do they take Ben? How do the other children react to Ben's absence?(76)
27. Describe Harriet's visit to see Ben.(77-82)
28. What decision does Harriet make and why?

29. How does Harriet go about re-educating Ben? How does he react to the rest of the family?
30. Who does Ben connect with and why? How does Harriet use this?
31. How does the family deal with Ben in the house at night?
32. What do Luke and Helen announce and why? Who will pay for it? (96)
33. How do Jane and Paul cope at this point?
34. Describe Ben's school experience. How do the teachers view him? How do they view his mother?
35. What does Ben finally do to get in real trouble? (101) What does Harriet use in order to keep Ben under control? Do you agree with these tactics?
36. What is Dr. Gilly's diagnosis at first and then how and why does it change? Define Atavistic in connection to Ben. Do you agree- why or why not?(103-106)
37. What eventually happens with Jane and Paul? Why does Harriet allow this?
38. What happens with John? How does this affect Ben and the family?(110-111)
39. Ironically, how has Ben's existence in the family changed David's career path?(112-113)
40. How do David and Harriet speak of Ben in atavistic terms on these pages? (113-114) And even when Harriet finds Ben in the attic, how does this atavism come out?
41. How does Harriet view herself as a "scapegoat" both with her family and society? (117-118)
42. Why won't Harriet sell the house? What year is it and how old is Ben? Why doesn't the school call home about his behavior? Describe his new gang. (120-121)
43. How do the events reported in the news and Ben's new gang seem to be connected?
44. How does their dining room table become symbolic? (129)
45. What are the final atavistic images of Ben ? (130-131)

46. What is inferred about Ben's future? What universal statement could be made with this ending?