

**Title:** *Night*

**Author:** Elie Wiesel **Genre:** Memoir

*Night* starts out in Sighet, Czechoslovakia, 1941, the beginning of World War II. Throughout the book, the author, Eliezer Wiesel is moved through several treacherous concentration camps, including Auschwitz, Buchenwald and Buna. Most of the action takes place in these camps, as Elie struggles to survive. The book covers Elie's life from 1941 to 1945, a time when, in Nazi controlled Europe, Jews like Elie, along with countless others were taken to concentration camps where they were held, forced to work, or killed. The concentration camps Elie stayed at had conditions ranging from poor to barely livable. Although one of his camps was stated to be "better off", he still had little food, old clothing and long workdays. He had to work in the snow and heat, march long distances through the cold and sleep in the mud on the floor, sometimes surrounded by the dead corpses of his companions. The author didn't "choose" the setting of his story; he was placed in it. However, I believe he chose to write about this part of his life because it shows the issues Jews went through and the cruelty man can show to man. The main character in this book is Eliezer Wiesel. He was a Jewish boy of 15, born in Sighet, Czechoslovakia. He was thoughtful, loyal and kind throughout the book, but as he goes through one after another hardship, his character changes greatly. When at first he was deeply religious and awed by his God, he begins to doubt, and even despise Him. He stops caring about others about seeing so many die before him. One thing he doesn't lose is his love for his father. Although many times he wondered if it wouldn't be easier to leave his weak father behind, Eliezer sticks with him until the end. This loyalty is one of his best traits, while one of his worst, even if only caused by the circumstances, is his lack of concern or empathy for anyone besides himself or his father.

The message of this book was clear. Without hope, courage and empathy, men can turn on one another without thought or reason, and without education to understand other people, this can become even worse. Although the heartless soldiers stood out to me, the heartless prisoners stood out even more. For example, in one part of the book, a boy, or young man killed his own father over a piece of bread, so animal was his desire for food. I think the author wants you to learn about how harshly the Jews were treated during this time period, and the sheer viciousness of the Holocaust.

This book definitely held my interest. There were no slow parts, and although it was not an extremely difficult read, it was very thought provoking and very engrossing. I would recommend it to almost anyone. Whether they like action or history or complex characters or anything else, this book will probably have it. I think anyone can enjoy, and more importantly learn from *Night*.