

Night  
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## Survival and the Impact of the Holocaust in Elie Wiesel's Night

This is an essay about a 15 year old kid who survived the Holocaust. It's a message on survival. In Elie Wiesel's memoir *Night*, the theme of survival is crucial to understanding the terrible experiences people faced during the Holocaust. Wiesel tells his story from his peaceful life in the town of Sighet to the brutal conditions of concentration camps. He shows how the fight to survive affects not only his body but also his mind and relationships. This essay will discuss how Wiesel explores survival through his inner struggles, the impact on his faith, and the changes in moral values. Ultimately, this theme helps readers understand the deep impact of the Holocaust on individuals and families.

Wiesel's journey begins in Sighet, where the Jewish community initially does not believe that danger is coming. When he and his family are taken to Auschwitz, survival becomes a daily struggle. Wiesel describes the first night in the camp: "Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp, which has turned my life into one long night" (Wiesel 34). This quote shows the darkness that surrounds him, both physically and emotionally. The horrible experiences he faces force him to think only about survival. Wiesel's fight is not just about staying alive; it's also about trying to hold on to his identity and humanity in a place where that is hard to do. The harsh realities of camp life make survival his main priority, pushing everything else aside.

As Wiesel faces these terrible realities, he begins to question his faith. He was once a deeply religious boy, but the suffering he sees makes him doubt God's existence. A powerful moment occurs when he sees a child being executed, and he cries out, "Where is God? Where is He?" (Wiesel 33). This moment shows a big change in Wiesel's beliefs and highlights the internal conflict he struggles with. The cruelty of the Holocaust shakes his faith and leads him to feel lost and alone. This struggle demonstrates how the fight for survival can cost people their spiritual connection, showing the emotional pain of such horrifying experiences.

Wiesel also explores how survival affects moral values. In the camps, relationships become strained, and people sometimes betray each other to survive. For example, he

describes how one starving inmate fights for a piece of bread, saying, “The look in his eyes, as they lit upon mine, has never left me” (Wiesel 39). This memory shows how desperate situations can lead people to act in ways that are surprising and often cruel. As individuals are pushed to their limits, the bonds that once held families and friends together can break. Wiesel’s observations make it clear that the struggle for survival can change how people act, revealing the psychological toll of the Holocaust on everyone involved.

In conclusion, Elie Wiesel's *Night* is a powerful story that explores what survival means during one of the darkest times in history. Through his experiences, Wiesel shows how the fight to survive is connected to losing faith and moral values. His memoir reminds us of the heavy emotional toll of extreme suffering and the difficult choices that people must make to stay alive. The impact of the Holocaust on individuals and families is deeply felt throughout the story, showing how these experiences can tear people apart while also highlighting the strength found in family ties. Ultimately, Wiesel’s story helps readers understand the resilience of the human spirit while recognizing the devastating effects of dehumanization.

#### Works Cited

Wiesel, Elie. *\*Night\**. Bantam Books, 1982.