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NIGHT ESSAY

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### Survival

In the book “Night” Elie shares his experiences during the Holocaust through his loss of humanity by the Camps, the conditions, and the Germans. “Night” is a nonfiction biography about how Elie survived 4 camps. The camps he visited were Auschwitz, Buna, Buchenwald, and Gleiwitz. After the camps he had lost his faith. He also wanted to write a book about it so everyone would not forget about what had happened, though he waited ten years to write it so that the truth would come out. The camps had stripped them from their pride to physical attachments. They would split up families, take their jewelry, and their clothes. Elie had lost his Father, Mother, and sister by the time he had been freed from the camps. In this book Elie shows his skills of survival around danger and death. Elie faced many challenges but was able to survive because of his love for his father, lying about his age, and by eating snow.

The first example of how Elie was able to survive was when he and his father first arrived at Auschwitz, they were being formed in groups. A stranger appeared and asked their ages. Elie said he was fifteen, and his father said he was fifty. The stranger said, “No, not fifty. Forty. Do you understand? Eighteen and forty” (Wiesel 29). They were told that so that they could stay together. So, when Elie arrived at the guard, he told the guard he was eighteen. Elie was placed

in line with his father and they walked past the burn pit where babies were being burned. If Elie had not lied about his age he would not have survived.

The second way that Elie was able to survive was when they were forced to move camps because the Russians were getting closer. Elie, his father, and the other prisoners were forced to move 42 miles in the freezing cold weather to their next camp - Buna. Elie said, "I was putting on foot in front of the other" (Wiesel 77). If any of the prisoners fell behind, they would get shot by the Germans. Elie and his father survived by running to stay warm and by keeping watch over each other during a rest break to make sure they did not die of exhaustion. Elie said, "My father's presence was the only thing keeping me from dying" (Wiesel 78).

Finally, Elie was able to survive when he was on the train to Buchenwald. Many of the prisoners were dying from the cold and starvation. Elie said, "We were given no food. We lived on snow" (Wiesel 88). At one point during the trip, the Germans had thrown some bread crumbs out to watch the prisoners fight over the bread. But Elie just watched. Finally, when the ride was almost over, the prisoners stood up and moved around so that they would not freeze to death. But some did.

In conclusion, Elie Wiesel was a survivor! He went through a lot and saw a lot of bad things. He lost his mother and sister. His father eventually died. He almost froze to death and almost starved to death. The Holocaust was a horrible event that killed about six million Jews. Elie's story shows how families were torn apart.

Works Cited

Wiesel, Elie. *Night*. EMC Corporation, 2003.