

Kinsley Hoggatt

Mrs. Graning

English

21 October 2024

### Eli's survival

Elie Wiesel has survived many challenges throughout his experience during the Holocaust. Elie was a 15 year old during the time of this tragedy. Eli's mother and sisters were killed and Elie only had his father left. Elie was a strong, brave, amazing man who survived one of the worst wars. Elie Wiesel survived very painful operations/surgeries, a 42 mile non stop run, and surviving having almost no food.

Elie faces two very painful operations including surgery on his leg and he gets a gold tooth pulled. During this time they didn't have medicine for numbing or for pain tolerance during surgery, so he did these with no drugs or medication, this made them worse. Elie's leg starts having problems and he goes to the doctor. They decide for surgery. After surgery the resistance was coming and all invalids could stay in the hospital. Elie and his father decided to leave because they didn't want to risk getting killed. Later they found out if they would've stayed they could have been freed. During the escape they ran non stop and his leg was still in recovery. During the run death fascinated Elie because it would mean he would not feel anything, no more pain in his foot, no more starvation, no cold, but he sticks through and makes it, (Wiesel 78). The other operation was when Elie got a tooth pulled by a spoon! The Germans were taking any gold teeth from the Jews. Elie really did not want to give up this because it was the only valuable, he

had from his past. Painful enough he survived both of these, this is the first example of Elie's survival.

During Elie's escape he ran 42 miles non-stop. This run was brutal but Elie was scared to stop so he kept going. Readers can see this fear to stop when he says, "Don't think. Don't stop. Run," (Wiesel 77). Many Jews that were running gave up and fell down, were crushed, and suffocated by the other many thousands running. Elie and his father stayed together, through this cold long journey. They had no food during this run. When they finally arrived at their destination everyone was exhausted. Elie was in a pile of people and almost suffocated. This is the second example of Elie's survival.

The last example of Elie's survival was starvation. Elie was starved almost the whole time he was at the camps. When Elie would transfer camps it would be on the trains with no room. During these train rides the Germans would throw little rations of food and many prisoners would fight till death for these rations. Elie was also starved because he gave up most of his rations to his dying father. He felt as if he couldn't give up on his father but it was morally hard for him to give up his own food. Readers can see this when Elie says "I gave him what was left in my soup. But it was with a heavy heart. I felt that I was giving it up against my will," (Wiesel 94). The only type of food they got was mostly little rations of bread, soup, and on one occasion they got coffee (it wasn't actually coffee, just disgusting ingredients called coffee). These are just examples of his starvation, he was starved from the time he arrived at the camps to the very end! Elie only lived for his next ration of bread; he felt there was no use for life. This is the last example of Elie Wiesel's amazing survival.

Throughout *Night* Elie survived many challenges including two very painful operations/surgeries, a 42 mile non stop run, and survived starvation. This survival shows how brave Elie was throughout his experience. Elie is a very inspirational author for readers of all ages because it helps you come to know how much the Jews went through, and that you can do anything! In conclusion, Elie was an amazing survivor during the hardest times.

## Works cited

Wiesel, Eli. *Night*. EMC Paradigm, 2003