

Tiger Simons

Mrs. Graning

English 8

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### Survival in Night

Survival to Elie at age twelve was that he was going to school with his parents running a shop. His main goal in his life was to study with a master and learn about his faith. When he heard rumors about Jews being locked up and being killed in inhumane ways he didn't believe it. His whole life changed as soon as the first group of Jews were being deported. When he got to the camps, survival became very different and difficult. In Night, Elie survives when he gets to the camps even beating starvation, he was one of the multiple people that survived the selection, and he also survived the brutality of people in the cattle car with the coldness.

"We still had a few provisions left but not enough to satisfy our hunger" (Wiesel 20). The Nazis barely gave the Jews any food so they were always hungry. They also didn't give them a lot of water either so they suffered from thirst. During the last night in the train cart they ate the last of their provisions. If a man hadn't come by to tell him and his dad to lie about their age, they would have died for being too old and too young. If the Jews didn't do any work they would die for being lazy and not doing anything. When Elie got frostbite he could have died or died from not being able to do any work because of his foot.

When the selection began everyone was scared that their numbers were going to be written down. This meant that they were going to be next to die. People were giving advice to

each other so they wouldn't die. Some of the advice was to run as fast as you can when you are called to come in front of the SS officers. The most important advice was for them not to let them see that you are afraid. "Don't walk slowly, run! Run as if the devil were after you" (Wiesel 65). Elie passed the test but his father didn't pass the first test. If his father died early in the book, Elie would probably have died because no one would motivate him to do good.

There were many ways that he could have died, by other people, starvation, or illness. Elie could have died from getting trampled by the hundreds of people that ran for many miles or by suffocation. When Elie was in the cattle car, a piece of bread thrown by the townspeople could have landed on him and someone could have killed him for it. Elie didn't want to die of the cold because he didn't want to leave his father all by himself. He was always fighting for his survival and for and more importantly he was always fighting for his father's survival. "I woke up suddenly to two hands on my throat, trying to strangle me" (Wiesel 90). If Elie didn't shout for his father he could have died from suffocation by his attacker.

Elie survived being held captive in Auschwitz's Birkenau, Buna and Buchenwald camps, he survived the selection, and the cattle cart going to Buchenwald. After surviving all of the camps he has been to, he almost died of food poisoning and dehydration after being rescued after he ate as much as he could. There were many ways that he could have died, by other people, starvation, or illness. Through Elie's survival and writing of the Holocaust, a reader feels that they have been there themselves and had experienced everything that he has done in his book. It makes us feel if we could have survived through it all or do anything different. This book taught us to remember all history, to value our loved ones and to keep peace in the world.

## Works cited

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