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Mrs Graning

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Night

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Night is a book about how Elie Wiesel, a kid in the holocaust, tries to survive this terrible life in the concentration camps. During the holocaust Elie is taken from his house in Sighet and put on a train car and taken to a concentration camp called Birkenau. While he fights to stay alive, Elie remains hopeful and never gives up. Along the way, Elie is surrounded by and meets people who give him the strength to survive, like his dad and Moshe. Elie survives the holocaust by listening to the advice of others, lying about his age, and just some good luck.

As Elie and his dad are taken from Sighet, Elie's dad tried his best to be a good model and kept Elie strong. He was good with advice like "Don't let yourself be overcome by sleep, Eliezer. It's dangerous to fall asleep in the snow. You might sleep for good" (79). His dad was widely known in their community and well respected. Like Elie's father, Moshe the Beadle was also wise and gave good advice. The people who ran the camps try to scare Elie and the other prisoners by showing them the furnace and flames and what could happen to them if they don't listen to them. Elie would also never forget the moment where he questions his faith and asks why god would let this happen to him. When Elie was wondering to himself why he prays, Elie asked Moshe why he prayed. "I pray to the God within me that He will give me the strength to ask Him the right questions" (2). These words helped Elie concentrate on surviving his situation.

They have some strict rules for the Jews at the concentration camp. No valuables can be stored and they also had to wear a yellow star on them. Also, the prisoners had to be in by six. Another rule was that you had to be 18 to work and in this camp if you're not useful or of working age they might kill you. Elie met a prisoner who asked how old he was. Elie said he was fifteen. The fellow prisoner said "No, Eighteen." Elie was confused and said no, he was fifteen. The prisoner said "Fool, listen to what I said" (28). It was then that Elie understood what he was saying. So Elie lied about his age so that he could go work as a laborer and not get killed.

Instead of choosing to leave the hospital Elie and his father decided to stay assuming it would be a better option for them than the camp and while they stayed in the hospital the Russian army ended up rescuing some of the Jews from the camp. If Elie had just stayed, his luck would have changed and he could have also been saved by the Russian Army. Because he did not get the chance to escape then, Elie had to make his own good luck, by running to the next concentration camp. And while he was on the run, he wanted to give up from how hard the journey was. But one of the SS officers kept saying "Keep going! We are getting there! Courage!" (83). This gave Elie the strength to go on.

His story, *Night* was written to not only show us just how bad the holocaust was back then, but also that we should not make the same mistake and let something like this happen again. In the book, we learn a lot about Elie's character and how he never gave up hope. And obviously this book can teach us a lot like to never give up and always try to survive like Elie, even if things feel hopeless.

Work cited page

Weisel, Elie. *Night*. St. Paul, Minnesota: Hill & Wang, 1960. Print.

