

Trinity Bunch

Mrs Graning

English

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### Survival of the Holocaust

In the book “Night” by Elie Weisel, the theme of survival is a big struggle that is used throughout the whole story. Elie, is a young Jew, that faces things that we couldn’t imagine, during the Holocaust. The book tells us about Elie’s experiences during the Holocaust, where he faces unimaginable challenges. He tells about the struggles he entered and how he was able to get through them. Through Elies journey, we see how strong people can be, even when things are really tough. Elie Wiesel explores the theme of survival throughout this story by getting through the selection process with his father, running 42 miles Gleiwitz without stopping, and fighting to death over crumbs in the train on the way to Buna.

During the selection, the SS officers look at the prisoners to determine who is in good enough shape to work and who will be sent to the crematorium to be burned. Elie and his father are both extremely scared and nervous, knowing that their survival depends on them looking healthy and strong. Elie passes the selection by running as fast as he possibly can when they call out his number. In the book, Elie says “One single thought filled my mind: do not let my number be taken”. His strategy was to look energetic, show no signs of weakness, and move quickly without hesitation. When it is his fathers turn, Elie becomes extremely nervous because he knows that his father is much weaker and older. His father does manage to get through the selection but he didn’t without a scare.

During the run from Buna to Gleiwitz, Elie shows his will to survive, despite the harsh conditions. The prisoners were forced to run through the snow, and many of them had fallen out and died. Elie describes this scene saying, “The snow was like a carpet, very gentle, very warm. I fell asleep. I had no right to let myself die. What would my father do without me? I was his soul support.” This quote shows how Elie is fighting the urge to give up because he doesn’t think his father would make it without him. Even though he doesn’t think he will make it much longer, he keeps himself going longer. Elie’s determination and responsibility for his father is what helped him survive the awful run to Buna.

During the train ride to Buna in “Night”, Elie Wiesel shows his incredible survival skills. His journey was extremely harsh, and he had little food or water. Elie describes how people were fighting like animals for scraps of bread thrown into the train cars. He says, “Men throw themselves on top of each other, stamping on each other, tearing at each other, biting each other. Wild beasts of prey, with animal hatred in their eyes; an extraordinary vitality had seized them, sharpening their teeth and nails.” This quote shows how desperate people were just so they could survive. Elie had to stay strong and avoid being like them. Him staying focused and determined helped him accomplish this harsh part of his journey, showing that he was willing to survive against all the odds.

## CONCLUSION

Elie Wiesel explores the theme of survival throughout this story by getting through the selection process with his father, running 42 miles Gleiwitz without stopping, and fighting to death over crumbs in the train on the way to Buna. These experiences show how hard it was to survive during the Holocaust. It was a time of neediness and loss but also demonstrates how tough one's life can be. The book describes their struggles, the loss of their loved ones, and how far they had

to go just to survive. This story can help readers see how the Holocaust broke families apart and changed their lives forever.