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Graning

English

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Survival

For most people, survival is something you don't think about, but for Elie Wiesel it was a different story. Elie grew up just like a normal kid never having to worry about survival. Until when he was fifteen, he was moved to a Jewish ghetto. From the ghetto, he was moved to Auschwitz-Birkenau. The next eleven months would be the worst part of his life.

Survival for Elie is something he had to think about every minute of every hour of every day in the five camps he went to. When I talk about the "camps" I am not talking about a fun summer camp. I am talking about a hard, torture, and forced labor camp, a concentration camp. Elie did not live an easy life; this event was harder than 90% of people on earth's life. Elie is the bravest person thousands of people know.

For people in the concentration camps survival was something they wanted so badly. In the book "Night" Elie talks about how people would kill to stay alive. This fact is an oxymoron; to kill to stay alive. Elie's life was very hard,hard, but he pushed on just for the sole purpose of survival. Survival doesn't seem like something you really talk about or bring up. But for the people in these camps it was brought up a lot. You didn't know if you were going to survive to see the sunset of that torturous day, But some did

and that is the only reason we know of the camps. These horrible, torturous, dirty, sickly, and many other words that are too vile to speak of. These words are what describe daily life. Now, these words are used very solemnly to discuss a mass murder or something else of that manner, But for the Jews it was in every conversation.

After Elie was liberated from that horrible camp, he vowed not to think, talk, or bring up that hurtful experience for ten years. After that period of time, he became a holocaust awareness advocate. Elie has educated many people on the horrors of concentration camps. I believe that Eliezer Wiesel is in heaven with our Lord and he is watching over us and helping us to tell others about the holocaust. Even though Elie is Jewish, I think he has some of the same beliefs as Catholics today. In fact, many people, not just Catholics, believe that God will always stay with you. Also, God works in mysterious ways. Elie was a very courageous man who was an influence to all.

All in all Elie has been an amazing person and a great advocate. Thirteen year olds today are worried about who has the newest video game or newest phone. It would be interesting and quite frightening to see how a thirteen-year old would handle the stress of Elie's everyday life. Citizens of the United States take for granted our peaceful lives. The average thirteen-year old need not be worried about making life and death decisions during every waking moment. Having a cake or ice cream is something an American child would have on an ordinary day and or their birthday, but Elie was only hoping to make it past his birthday not celebrate. Even a new pair of socks would be an amazing gift to him, to get out of his old torn ones. Elie was gratified with what he had even though it was the bare minimum. Even though we think we are on a spiritual level

with God, that was the only thing he had. That only allowed him to live and flourish in his hard times. He tells us about his spiritual companionship with God not to brag but to show that is the only thing he had. Elie says “ Our first act as free men was to throw ourselves onto the provisions. We thought only of that. Not of revenge, not of our families. Nothing but bread.” When Elie says this, he is not only finding bread but also the bread of life.

Works Cited

Wiesel, Elie. *Night*, *Elie Wiesel*. SparkNotes LLC, 2014.