

Elie Wiesel's

Night

Why read *Night*?

With the dawn of a new century, there is an urgency to document survivor stories and preserve memories—for time and death will silence these remaining voices. Soon, there will be no one left to say, “Never shall I forget that night!” It is imperative that today’s students gaze deeply into this night of darkness and listen to the voices that bear witness to the Holocaust.

Night introduction by Gloria Chandler

Why read *Night*?

"These children—these innocent little children—were deprived of everything: their lives and even a burial place. And, so, hush, little children, one million of you, hush, come: we invite you. We invite you into our memory."

Elie Wiesel - From *The Kingdom of Memory*



Elie Wiesel

Author

Elie Wiesel believes that the brutality of the Holocaust can never be described in full to those who have not lived through the horror. His personal account of the Holocaust entitled *Night* is a vivid testimony to the terror and suffering that he witnessed and endured in the darkest period of his life.

Elie Wiesel speaks at the UN General Assembly, observing the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.



Elie Wiesel

Survivor

Wiesel was fifteen years old when he and his family were deported by the Nazis to Auschwitz. His mother and younger sister died there; his two older sisters survived. Elie and his father were later transported to Buchenwald, where his father died shortly before the camp was liberated in April 1945.

The young man seventh from the left in the middle row bunk is Elie Wiesel, Buchenwald—April 16, 1945



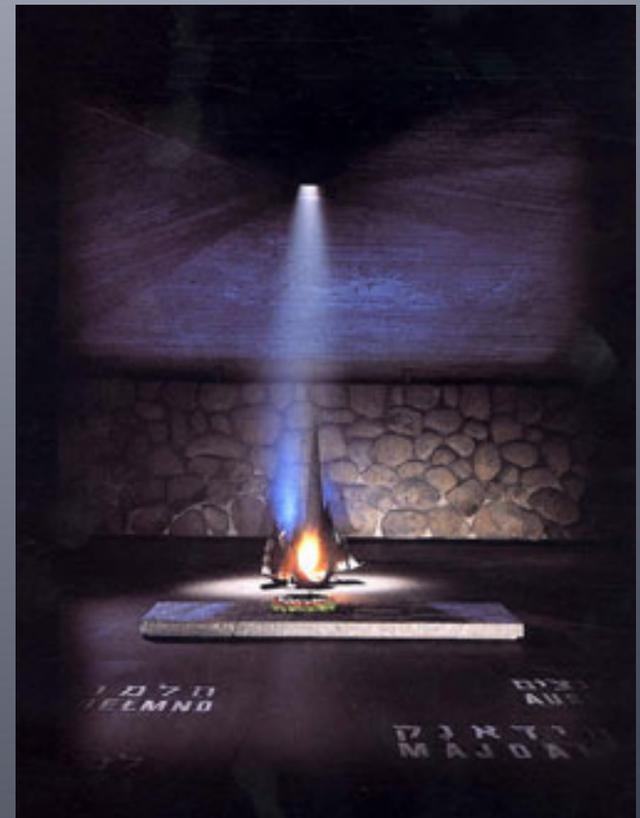
Hall of Remembrance

Yad Vashem, Israel

In 1961, Yad Vashem inaugurated the Hall of Remembrance, the first Holocaust commemoration site established at Yad Vashem on the Mount of Remembrance.

The walls are made of boulders brought from the Sea of Galilee. Engraved on the floor are the names of 22 of the most infamous Nazi murder sites.

The Eternal Flame, burning from a base like a broken bronze goblet, continuously illuminates the Hall, its smoke exiting the building through an opening at the highest point of the ceiling. It stands a stone crypt containing the ashes of Holocaust victims, brought to Israel from the extermination camps.



Courage to Care

Only a few

"In those times there was darkness everywhere. In heaven and on earth, all the gates of compassion seemed to have been closed. The killer killed and the Jews died and the outside world adopted an attitude either of complicity or of indifference. Only a few had the courage to care. These few men and women were vulnerable, afraid, helpless - what made them different from their fellow citizens?... Why were there so few?... Let us remember: What hurts the victim most is not the cruelty of the oppressor but the silence of the bystander.... Let us not forget, after all, there is always a moment when a moral choice is made.... And so we must know these good people who helped Jews during the Holocaust. We must learn from them, and in gratitude and hope, we must remember them."

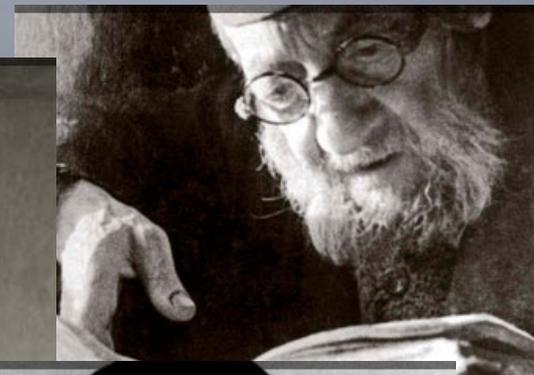
Elie Wiesel

Unto Every Person there is a Name

6 million Jews died in the Concentration Camps; 1 million were children

The Nazis sought to dehumanize the Jews, turn them into numbers, murder them and systematically obliterate every memory of them.

Yad Vashem strives to recognize the importance of collecting and recording the names of the victims — to perpetuate the memory of every single person who was murdered.



sources

http://www1.yadvashem.org/yv/en/remembrance/hall_of_remembrance.asp

<http://libguides.concordiashanghai.org/content.php?pid=237559&sid=1962111>

