

Summer Reading Assignment

PreCapstone English 10

Required Novel: *Night* by Elie Wiesel

Chapter Passage Instructions: While reading each chapter of the novel, be mindful of locating the following passages. Then, answer any associated questions. Due to some copies of the novel not containing chapter numbers, I've included the start to each chapter along with the chapter numbers. Also, be mindful that there are multiple translations of the novel, leading to the following passages having slight differences.

- **Chapter 1** beginning with “They called him Moishe the Beadle...”
 - **Passage:** “They think I’m mad,” he whispered, and tears, like drops of wax, flowed from his eyes. Once I asked him the question, “Why do you want people to believe you so much? In your place I would not care whether they believed me or not...”
 - Who is speaking in this passage, and to what situation is he referring?
 - **Passage:** We were ready to wait as long as necessary. The courtyard turned into something like an antechamber to an operating room. We stood, waiting for the door to open. Neighbors, hearing the rumors, had joined us. We stared at our watches.
 - 2. What is the context surrounding the “waiting” in the above passage?
- **Chapter 2** beginning with “Lying down was not an option....”
 - **Passage:** We had believed her, if only for an instant. But there was nothing outside but darkness. We returned to our places, shame in our souls but fear gnawing at us nevertheless.
 - 3. To whom (*her*) and to what situation is the passage referring?
- **Chapter 3** beginning with “The beloved objects that we had carried with us....”
 - **Passage:** In a few seconds, we had ceased to be men. Had the situation not been so tragic, we might have laughed.
 - 4. What is the circumstance surrounding the narrator and others “ceasing to be men”?
 - **Passage:** He left. We never saw him again. He had been given the news. The *real* news.
 - 5. To whom (*He*) is the passage referring, and what was the “*real*” news he received?
- **Chapter 4** beginning with “The camp looked as though it had been through an epidemic....”
 - **Passage:** “So! You still don’t know how to march in step, you old good-for-nothing?” This went on for two weeks. It was untenable. We had to give in. That day, Franek burst into savage laughter.
 - 6. What had been going on for two weeks, and what did Franek desire from Eliezer?
 - **Passage:** Behind me, I heard the same man asking: “For God’s sake, where is God?” And from within me, I heard a voice answer. “Where is He? This is where – hanging here from this gallows...” That night, the soup tasted of corpses.
 - 7. What is the context that caused the situation in the above passage?
- **Chapter 5** beginning with “The summer was coming to an end.”
 - **Passage:** I began to laugh. I was happy. I felt like kissing him. At that moment, the others did not matter! They had not written me down. Those whose numbers had been noted were standing apart, abandoned by the whole world. Some were silently weeping.
 - 8. What is the context that caused the situation in the above passage?

- **Passage:** There followed terrible days. We received more blows than food. The work was crushing. And three days after he left, we forgot to say Kaddish.
 - 9. To whom (*he*) is the passage referring, and why was the narrator intending to say Kaddish?
- **Chapter 6** beginning with “An icy wind was blowing violently.”
 - **Passage:** He awoke with a start. He sat up, bewildered, stunned, like an orphan. He looked all around him, taking it all in as if he had suddenly decided to make an inventory of his universe, to determine where he was and how and why he was there. Then he smiled.
 - 10. To whom (*he*) is the passage referring, and what in the context surrounding this situation?
- **Chapter 7** beginning with “Pressed tightly against one another....”
 - **Passage:** In the wagon where the bread had landed, a battle had ensued. Men were hurling themselves against each other, trampling, tearing at and mauling each other. Beasts of prey unleashed, animal hate in their eyes.
 - 11. What in the context surrounding the situation in the above passage?
- **Chapter 8** beginning with “At the entrance to the camp, SS officers were waiting....”
 - **Passage:** I shall never forget the gratitude that shone in his eyes when he swallowed this beverage. The gratitude of a wounded animal. With these few mouthfuls of hot water, I had probably given him more satisfaction than during my entire childhood...
 - 12. What is the context surrounding the situation in the above passage?
- **Chapter 9** beginning with “I remained in Buchenwald until April 11.”
 - **Passage:** One day when I was able to get up, I decided to look at myself in the mirror on the opposite wall. I had not seen myself since the ghetto. From the depths of the mirror, a corpse was contemplating me. The look in his eyes as he gazed at me has never left me.
 - 13. What is the context surrounding the situation in the above passage?

Analysis Paragraph Instructions/Prompt: Choose any of the above passages that contain figurative language (1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 12, or 13). Then, write a paragraph in which you identify the figurative language used and analyze the author’s decision to use it (extensions, further meaning, implications, etc.).

Your paragraph must include the following:

- **Claim (Thesis):** Include a controlling statement for your paragraph that responds to the prompt instead of merely repeating it and includes all required elements of the prompt.
 - Weak Claim: “The author uses figurative language in passage 2 to keep the reader interested.”
 - Does not identify the figurative language used
 - Uses a bland, non-defensible, and universally understood rationale for the figurative language (keep the reader interested)
- **Evidence:** Provide direct quotes from the text that are directly related to the prompt.
 - When you have access to the text in front of you, you should always relay the evidence to your reader using direct quotes or line numbers (if applicable) instead of paraphrasing. For this exercise, you do not need to direct quote the entire passage, only the parts relevant to the figurative language.
- **Commentary:** Provide your explanation and analysis of the evidence presented, connecting it back to and proving your claim.
 - Commentary is not a translation or paraphrasing of the evidence. It is the opportunity for you (the writer) to dive into the extended meaning behind an author’s choice of wording. Let your mind make extended connections to ideas that aren’t explicitly stated in the text.