

Honors Sophomore English Summer Reading Assignment

Read: *Night* by Elie Wiesel

*You may check out the book in room 503, or it is available on line if you wish to read it on an e-reader or you phone...

• After completing the book answer the following questions:

1. "I've gone everywhere, trying to stop many atrocities; Bosnia, Kosovo, Macedonia. The least I can do is show the victims that they are not alone. When I went to Cambodia, journalists asked me, "What are you doing here? This is not a Jewish tragedy." I answered, "When I needed people to come, they didn't. That's why I am here."

O Magazine, November 2000

Question: After having read *Night*, what responsibilities has Elie Wiesel handed off to you?

*Incorporate Wiesel's reasoning into your answer.

2. The Holocaust actually began in 1939, nearly eighty years ago. Why do you think you are asked to learn about and study the Holocaust these many years later? Would your education time be better spent learning about more current issues?
3. Why does Wiesel title the book *Night*? (the book was originally written in Yiddish and was over 800 pages long)
4. Martin Niemoller was a church pastor in Germany during Hitler's rise to power. He shifted from an early support of Hitler to being very outspoken against the Nazi agenda and practices. He was arrested and held in concentration camps throughout WWII. He barely escaped execution and would become a voice against the Holocaust after the war.

He wrote a much quoted cautionary poem drawing attention to the in-attention of people to evil... (over)

“In Germany they came first for the Communists, and I didn’t speak up because I wasn’t a Communist.

They came for the Jews and I didn’t speak up because I wasn’t a Jew.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn’t speak up because I wasn’t a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Catholics and I didn’t speak up because I was a Protestant.

Then they came for me, and by that time no one was left to speak up.”

Compare and contrast Wiesel’s voice with that of Niemoller. They both experience suffering under the Nazi’s – what makes their messages powerful?

5. Surviving the concentration camps often was a matter of “luck” but the strength of human will plays a huge part in living through this brutal experience. Why do you believe some people possess such a strong will to live?

These questions will be due the first full week of school. There will be a test the second full week of school over *The Chosen* and *Night*...(*Night* will be the first book we read in class).

Written:

Write a letter to me, also due the first full week of school:

1. Tell me who you are, what you like to do, a bit about your friends and family (you do not need to over share – but whatever you feel I should know).
2. How long have you lived in Medical Lake? Are you new to Medical Lake? (If you are, where are you from?)
* And your impressions of this school and town.
3. Why you chose to take Honors Sophomore English and what you hope to learn and accomplish this year?