

NIGHT

BY ELIE WIESEL



Sources:
eliewieselfoundation.org
"Elie Wiesel - Biographical." Nobelprize.org
"Holocaust Survivors' Storyteller" *Academy of Achievement*
University of Virginia American Studies Dept.
wikipedia

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Contextual background information for *Night*
- Cross-disciplinary learning (science & literature)
- Provide terminology and framework to understand the experiences of characters and people

ELIE WIESEL

- Elie Wiesel was born in 1928 in Sighet, Transylvania, now part of Romania.



THE CAMPS

- At 15, Wiesel and his family were deported by the Nazis
 - Auschwitz (Poland)
 - Buna (Auschwitz sub camp)
 - Buckenwald (Germany)
 - Gleiwitz (Auschwitz sub camp)
- At 16, he was liberated (April 1945)



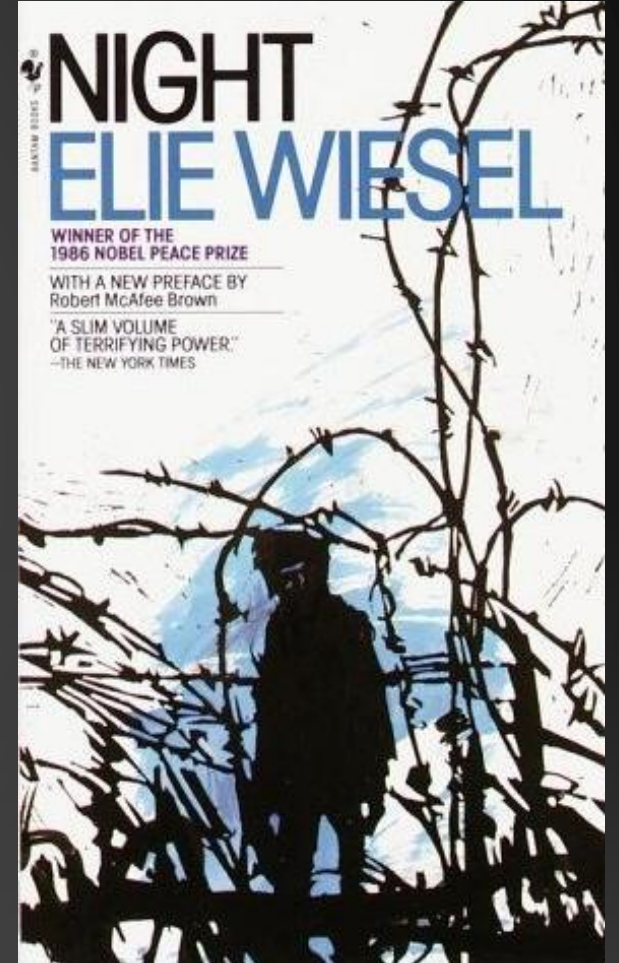
AFTER THE WAR

- Wiesel joined a transport of child survivors of Buchenwald to a rehabilitation center in France
- He moved to an orphanage for Orthodox Jews (France)
- He studied in Paris at the Sorbonne
- By 19, he was working for French newspapers
- For ten years, he observed a self-imposed vow of silence and wrote nothing of his war experience



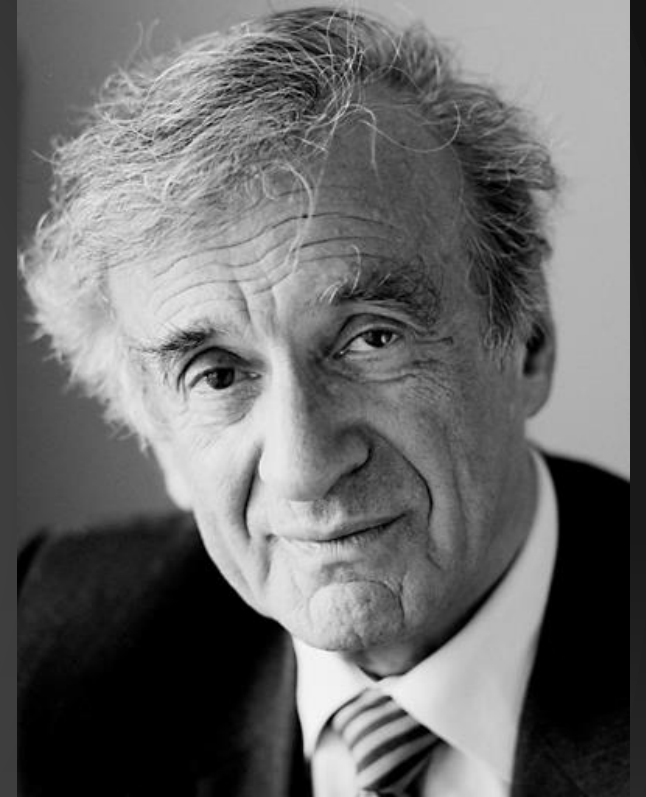
ELIE WIESEL

- In 1955, he wrote his memories in Yiddish, in a 900-page work *Un die welt hot geshvign* (And the world kept silent).
- Wiesel compressed the work into a 127-page French adaptation, *La Nuit* (Night) in 1960.



ELIE WIESEL

- Wiesel moved to the US in 1950s.
- Awards include
 - Presidential Medal of Freedom
 - U.S. Congressional Gold Medal
 - National Humanities Medal
 - Medal of Liberty
 - Nobel Prize for Peace (1986)
- Elie Wiesel died on July 2, 2016 in Manhattan



THEMES IN NIGHT

- Faith (ambivalent toward God, comparison to Job)
- Night
- Silence and Absence
- Memory

“I no longer accepted God's silence” (69).

“I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim.

Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.” (Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance Speech, 1986)

“For the dead and the living, we must bear witness” (xv).