

Night by Elie Wiesel

Glossary

Anti-Semitism: hostility toward or discrimination against Jews as a religious or ethnic minority group, often accompanied by social, economic, or political discrimination

Appelplatz (Appellplatz): German for roll call square

Auschwitz: established in 1940, the largest Nazi Concentration Camp complex, located in Poland. In 1942, a killing center was established at Auschwitz-Birkenau

Beadle: a beadle ushers and preserves order during services. Everyone in Sighet refers to Eliezer's instructor in the Kabbalah as "Moishe the Beadle" rather than by his last name to denote his function at religious services.

Boche: a derogatory French slang term for a German

crematory (or crematorium): an establishment containing a furnace for reducing dead bodies to ashes by burning

Gestapo: the German Secret State Police, which was under SS control and command

ghetto: a confined area of a city in which members of a minority group are compelled to live because of social, legal, or economic pressure.

Gypsy: a traditional term for Roma, a nomadic people, whose ancestors migrated to Europe from India. The authorities of Nazi Germany and its Axis partners persecuted and killed large numbers of Roma during the era of the Holocaust.

Kabbalah: *mystical* teachings of rabbinical origin, often based on an *esoteric* interpretation of the Hebrew Scriptures (*mystical*: spiritual mystery; *esoteric*: hard to understand, restricted knowledge)

Kaddish: a Jewish prayer recited in the daily synagogue services and by mourners after the death of a close relative

kapo: a concentration camp prisoner selected to oversee other prisoners on labor details. The term is often used generically for any concentration camp prisoner whom the SS gave authority over other prisoners.

Mengele, Dr. Josef: (1911–1979) SS physician assigned to Auschwitz Concentration Camp; notorious for conducting so-called medical experiments on inmates, especially twins and dwarves

phylacteries small square leather boxes containing slips inscribed with scriptural passages and traditionally worn on the left arm and on the head by Jewish men during morning weekday prayers



pipel: a young boy in the service of a *kapo* in concentration camps

Red Army: the Army of the Soviet Union

SS: in German, Schutzstaffel; the elite guard of Nazi Germany. It provided staff for the police, camp guards, and military units within the German army