

***Night* by Elie Wiesel (Published by Bantam Books)**

Approved for use in Honors Communication Arts I and Communication Arts I

Summary

A young Jewish boy, Elie Wiesel, winner of the 1986 Nobel Peace Prize, gives his personal account of his life as a teenager in the Nazi death camps during World War II. Through the atrocities he witnesses and experiences, Wiesel loses his family, his innocence, and his faith in God.

Connection to the Curriculum

Elie Wiesel's *Night* presents readers with a remarkable first-hand experience of his challenges and triumphs throughout the Nazi death camp era. Through this novel, Wiesel teaches readers the importance and role of family, faith, and responsibility. Despite the depressing subject matter, it is important for students to hear a story of how a so-called enlightened people resorted to genocide and how the rest of the enlightened world ignored it. Due to the similarities in age between the author and reader, this is a must read in order for students to understand that they have a responsibility for their past in order have a future. This book stands apart from most accounts of the Holocaust – rather than focusing solely on the external conflict, Wiesel emphasizes internal conflicts that are universal. In addition, this memoir is an ideal model for the memoir freshman students will write.

Standards

Course Objectives (Benchmarks)

Reading: 1.4- The students comprehend a variety of texts.

Literature: 2.1-The students use literary concepts to interpret and respond to text. 2.2- The students understand the significance of literature and its contributions to various cultures.

Writing: 3.2- The students use the writing process.

Possible Skills Taught (Indicators)

Reading:

1.4.10- The student generates and responds logically to literal, inferential, evaluative, and critical thinking questions before, during, and after reading the text.

1.4.11- The student uses information from the text to make inferences and draw conclusions.

1.4.14- The student explains and analyzes cause-effect relationships.

Literature:

2.1.2- The student analyzes the historical, social and cultural contextual aspects of the setting and their influence on characters and events in the story of a literary text.

2.1.5- The student identifies, analyzes, and evaluates the use of literary devices (foreshadowing, flashback, symbolism, tone, imagery, and point of view) in a text.

2.2.6- The student recognizes ways that literature from different cultures presents similar themes across different genres.

Writing:

3.2.2- The student generates ideas by using prewriting strategies.

3.2.5- The student completes a final copy of a narration (extended memoir).

3.3.7- The student writes using knowledge or experience.

3.3.9- The student develops the topic in an enlightening and purposeful way.

3.5.13 and 3.5.14- The student uses vocabulary and language to convey mood and personality to the reader and appropriate voice to the audience, occasion, and purpose.

3.7.23- The student uses dialogue that is natural

A Note on the Text: (The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

As Night reveals an honest, albeit disturbing, depiction of the Holocaust and Wiesel's experience in a death camp, the reader will experience violent images in the form of horrific abuse. The reader will follow Wiesel's journey as he experiences tragedy, questions his faith, and ultimately emerges as a changed man.

AP Connections

The language of Wiesel's memoir provides honors students the opportunity to closely examine his writing style using the Advanced Placement reading strategies.

Additional Unit Design Connections

Coming soon:

To be completed during future curriculum development activities