

Warren High School

English I Pre-AP: 2018 Summer Reading

Welcome to English I Pre-AP. One of our most important points of study this year will be on the themes of a variety of readings. To help prepare you for an advanced study of theme, please complete the following:

Read *Night* by Elie Wiesel

Night is one man's personal account of the time he spent as a teenager in concentration camps during the Holocaust. Not only does it explore coming-of-age during a time of evil and heartache, it provides passages that contain elevated examples of figurative language that we will examine for their meaning.

Assignment Instructions: After reading the novel *Night* by Elie Wiesel, focus your efforts on the messages of chapters 3, 6, and 9. For chapters 3, 6, and 9, your goal is to articulate a universal message communicated through the text. For each of the three chapters, write one thematic statement and three quotations from the chapter that support your thematic statement. Make sure to include the page number on which you found the quotes. We will use these themes and quotations as the groundwork for a more developed assignment, such as a timed essay. **These thematic statements and accompanying notes will be due Tuesday, September 4.**

- Remember: **theme is a statement about the universal human condition.** Theme is not a single word, like love, but instead a complete message you think the work conveys about love. For ideas on thematic topics that are relevant to the chapters in *Night*, see the list on the back of this page.
- Theme is not a summary of events that take place in the novel. If you think a certain event is important, ask yourself what possible messages or meanings could be drawn from that event.
- Theme is written in present tense.
- Your supporting quotes and notes should be substantial, but purposeful. So, don't record anything and everything—select textual evidence that is most meaningful to your thinking about the topic you are focusing on within that chapter of the book.

Thematic Topics*:

- Alienation** - emotional isolation; inability to relate with others; separation from one's own self
- Betrayal** - fading bonds of love; intentional deceit; hidden motives
- Birth** - life after loss; life sustains tragedy; cycles of birth and death
- Coming of Age** - boy becomes a man; girl becomes woman; loss of innocence; gaining of worldly knowledge
- Death** - death as mystery; death as a new beginning; death as redemption
- Deception** - appearance versus reality; nature of truth and knowledge
- Discovery** - conquering unknown; discovering strength; revealing hidden truth
- Duty** - the ethics of killing for duty; man's duty to self; man's duty to family, country, work, or society
- Family** - destruction of family; familial dysfunctions/cycles; protection of family; familial bonds
- Fortune** - a fall from grace and fortune; fleeting nature of fortune; predestined fate
- God and Man** - inner struggle of faith; affirmation of faith; man's relationship with God or a greater power
- Good and Evil** - the coexistence of good and evil on earth
- Home** - security of a homestead; home as a concept versus a place
- Hope** - hope returns; hope as a renewing or motivating force
- Hopelessness** - losing hope after tragedy; man's loss of purpose or belief in the world/God
- Isolation** - the isolation of the human soul; the alienation of an individual
- Journey** - most journeys lead back to home; journey as a revelation of the self; journey as a sacrifice for others
- Judgment** - balance between justice and judgment; social norms versus moral judgment
- Loss** - loss of innocence; loss of individualism; loss of love; loss of hope; loss of man; loss of society
- Love** - love sustains all; love fades in the face of challenge; relationship between love and time; the power of love
- Peace and War** - war as a universal, tragic experience; peace as a fleeting existence; peace/war in the modern world
- Power** - lust for power; corruptive nature of power; man's desire for power
- Suffering** - suffering as a natural human experience; suffering as redemption
- Survival** - man against nature; man against society; man against self; nature of man without civilization

*This is a list of just some thematic ideas. There are other topics you might consider once you begin reading the novel *Night*. Pick a topic you understand and can articulate well.

**Remember, your assignment calls for a thematic statement—not just this topic. To generate your thematic statement, ask yourself: *what idea/message does this chapter suggest about _____?*
topic

Sample Response Set-Up

Ch: _____ Topic: _____

Thematic Statement:

Textual Evidence:

(Wiesel pg #).

(Wiesel pg #).

(Wiesel pg #).