

SCO 6.3 examine significant moral and ethical issues related to the Second World War

#2 Quotes from the Book "Night" by Elie Wiesel

Eliezer "Elie" Wiesel is a Romanian-born Jewish-American writer, professor, political activist, and Holocaust survivor. He is the author the book *Night*, a work based on his experiences as a prisoner in the Nazi concentration camps. When Wiesel was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986, the Norwegian Nobel Committee called him a "messenger to mankind," stating that through his struggle to come to terms with "his own personal experience of total humiliation and of the utter contempt for humanity shown in Hitler's death camps", as well as his "practical work in the cause of peace", Wiesel had delivered a powerful message "of peace, atonement and human dignity" to humanity.^[3]

Quote #1

Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp, which has turned my life into one long night, seven times cursed and seven times sealed. Never shall I forget that smoke. Never shall I forget the little faces of the children, whose bodies I saw turned into wreaths of smoke beneath a silent blue sky.

Never shall I forget those flames which consumed my faith forever.

Never shall I forget that nocturnal silence which deprived me, for all eternity, of the desire to live. Never shall I forget those moments which murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to dust. Never shall I forget these things, even if I am condemned to live as long as God Himself. Never.

Quote #2

One day I was able to get up, after gathering all my strength. I wanted to see myself in the mirror hanging on the opposite wall. I had not seen myself since the ghetto.

From the depths of the mirror, a corpse gazed back at me.

The look in his eyes, as they stared into mine, has never left me.



Jewish prisoners at a concentration camp

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Document Analysis

1. What is the origin of this document?
 - a) Journal
 - b) Memoir
 - c) Novel
 - d) Testimony

2. Why was this document created?
 - a) To create feelings of mistrust towards the Germans
 - b) To make the Germans feel guilty
 - c) To promote anti-Semitism (Hatred of Jews)
 - d) To promote awareness and remembrance of this tragedy

3. Who is the intended audience for this document?
 - a) Americans
 - b) Children
 - c) Germans
 - d) All Adults

4. Examine the visual on the previous page. What does the expression on the men's faces say about how the holocaust affected the Jewish people?
 - a) It caused feelings of hopelessness and despair
 - b) It did not affect the Jewish people very much
 - c) It was a contributing factor that led to World War II
 - d) It was not a major event in the history of the Jewish people

5. How many Jews were killed during the Holocaust?
 - a) 6,000,000
 - e) 7,000,000
 - f) 11,000,000
 - g) 17,000,000

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6. What does the book excerpts tell us about the Holocaust?

7. If you were to have a conversation with Elie Wiesel, what questions would you ask?

8. Why is it important to study and remember the Holocaust?
