Review for English 9 Mid-term

- 1. **Allusion-** A reference to a statement, person, place, event or thing that is known from literature, history, myth, politics, or some other field of knowledge. Allusions add depth of meaning to a work of literature by inviting comparisons.
- 2. **Antagonist-** The character or force that struggles against or blocks the protagonist.
- 3. **Theme-** The central idea or insight of a work of literature. The theme is the idea the writer wishes to convey about the subject.
- 4. **Protagonist** The main character in a work of fiction. The protagonist is the character whose conflict sets the plot in motion. Most protagonists are rounded, dynamic characters who change in some important way by the end.
- 5. **Personification** A kind of metaphor in which a nonhuman thing or quality is talked about as if it were human. (The hands of a clock, an angry sky)
- 6. **Simile-** A figure of speech that makes a comparison between two seemingly different unlike things by using a connective word such as *like*, *as*, *then*, or *resembles*. "A full moon is like an accusing face." "Hail hard as B-B pellets" "Clouds resembling stuffed animals"
- 7. **Metaphor-** A figure of speech that makes a comparison by two seemingly unlike things. (The stars are icy diamonds)
- 8. **Setting-** The time and place of a story. Setting is often closely linked to the mood of a literary work.



10. **Irony-** A contrast or discrepancy between expectations and reality – between what is said and what is really meant, between what is expected and what really happens or between what appears to be true and what really is true.

11. **Conflict**- A struggle or clash between opposing characters, forces, or emotions. **External Conflict** – a character struggles against some outside force; another man (man vs. man), society as a whole (man vs. society) or some natural force (man vs. nature)

Internal Conflict – a character struggles with opposing needs, desires, or emotions (man vs. self).

- 12. **Characterization** The process by which the writer reveals the personality of a character. A writer can reveal a character in the following ways:
 - 1. By telling us directly what the character is like (humble, ambitious, easily manipulated, afraid, etc.)
 - 2. By describing how the character looks and dresses.
 - 3. By letting us hear the character speak.
 - 4. By revealing the character's private thoughts and/ or feelings.
 - 5. By revealing the character's effects on other people showing how other characters feel or behave toward the character.
 - 6. By showing the character's actions.
- 13. **Foreshadowing-** Clues that hint at what is going to happen later on in the plot.

Night:

Setting (Time) - 1941–1945, during World War II

Setting (Place) - Eliezer's story begins in Sighet, Transylvania (now part of Romania; during Wiesel's childhood, part of Hungary). The book then follows his journey through several concentration camps in Europe: Auschwitz/Birkenau (in a part of modern-day Poland that had been annexed by Germany in 1939), Buna (a camp that was part of the Auschwitz complex), Gleiwitz (also in Poland but annexed by Germany), and Buchenwald (Germany).

Themes- Eliezer's struggle to maintain faith in a benevolent God; silence; inhumanity toward other humans; the importance of father-son bonds.

Major Conflict- Eliezer's struggles with Nazi persecution, and with his own faith in God and in humanity.

Major Characters:

- 1. **Elie (Eliezer):** The narrator of *Night* and the stand-in for the memoir's author, Elie Wiesel. *Night* traces Eliezer's psychological journey, as the Holocaust robs him of his faith in God and exposes him to the deepest inhumanity of which man is capable. Despite many tests of his humanity, however, Eliezer maintains his devotion to his father. It is important to note that we learn Eliezer's last name only in passing, and that it is never repeated. His story—which parallels Wiesel's own biography—is intensely personal, but it is also representative of the experiences of hundreds of thousands of Jewish teenagers.
- 2. **Elie's Father (Chlomo):** Even though he is the only character other than Eliezer who is present throughout the memoir, Eliezer's father is named only once, at the end of *Night*. Chlomo is respected by the entire Jewish community of Sighet, and by his son as well. He and Eliezer desperately try to remain together throughout their concentration camp ordeal. At the beginning of the memoir, it is revealed that he does not express deep love toward his family.
- 3. **Moshe the Beadle :** Eliezer's teacher of Jewish mysticism, Moshe is a poor Jew who lives in Sighet. He is deported before the rest of the Sighet Jews but escapes and returns to tell the town what the Nazis are doing to the Jews. Tragically, the community takes Moshe for a lunatic.
- 4. **Dr. Joseph Mengele :** Described as a typical SS officer (a cruel face, but not devoid of intelligence, and wearing a monocle), he uses a baton during the selection process. He decides who lives to work another day and who is sent to their deaths at the crematory. Cold, unaffected, and authoritative, he is the prototypical Nazi officer.
- 5. **Young Pipel:** A young assistant under the Dutch Oberkapo (head overseer) at Buna, he is sentenced to death for being involved in sabotage. Described as having the face of angel, he struggles on the gallows for more than half an hour before he dies. Elie is deeply affected by witnessing the boy's death.

Minor Characters:

- 1. **Elie's Mother :** Separated from Elie and her husband at Birkenau, she and Elie's younger sister, Tzipora, die in the crematory at Birkenau.
- 2. **Hilda and Bea :** Elie's older sisters, they survive the camps.
- 3. **Tzipora**: Elie's younger sister. She dies, along with Elie's mother at Birkenau.
- 4. **Madame Schachter:** A woman of about fifty with a ten year old child. On the train ride to Auschwitz, she starts to lose her mind. She constantly warns the passengers of the fire, flame, and furnace. Her words prove prophetic, as the other Jews witness the flames of the crematory and the smell of burning flesh upon arrival of Birkenau.

- 5. **Stein of Antwerp:** A relative of the Wiesels, he questions Elie's father about the whereabouts of his wife and two little boys. Elie lies and tells them that he has heard of them, which makes Stein happy. He brings Elie extra rations of food until he hears the truth about his family. Elie does not hear from him again.
- 6. **Akiba Drumer:** A fellow prisoner with a deep solemn voice, he sings Hasidic melodies at Birkenau. Deeply religious, he is optimistic that their imprisonment will not last long. As time passes, he loses faith.
- 7. **Juliek:** A bespectacled Polish Jew, he is a violinist in the orchestra at Buna. At Gleiwitz, amidst a barrack full of dying men, Elie hears Juliek play his violin one last time. In the morning, Elie finds him dead, his violin crushed.
- 8. **Idek the Kapo:** An overseer at Buna, he is described as having fits of madness. He beats Elie and his father on different occasions. In one incident, Elie discovers him with a girl. As punishment, Idek gives him 25 strokes of the whip.
- 9. **Franck:** A Pole and former student from Warsaw, he is the foreman at Buna. He forces Elie to give up the gold crown on his tooth by tormenting Elie's father.
- 10. **Alphonse:** A German Jew and head of the block at Buna, he is kind and generous to the members of his block.
- 11. **Dentist (Jewish Czech):** A Jewish dentist at Buna that Elie goes to see for his gold crown, his dentist office is closed down after being arrested for running a private trade of gold teeth.
- 12. **French girl (Jewess):** A girl with whom Elie works next to at a warehouse at Buna. When Elie is beaten by Idek the Kapo, the French girl helps him and tells him to keep his anger for another day. Years later in Paris, Elie Wiesel runs into her in the Metro. After reminiscing about the past, Elie finds out that she is, as he had thought, Jewish.
- 13. **Dutch Oberkapo:** A kind and beloved overseer at Buna, he is accused of sabotage and stocking arms. He is transferred to Auschwitz and never seen again. His assistant, the pipel, is hanged.
- 14. **Rabbi from Poland:** Like Akiba Drumer, a person who loses his faith while in the camps. Initially, he recites whole passages of the Talmud and argues with himself about God. Later on, he concludes that God is no longer with them.
- 15. **Jewish doctor (at Buna):** A doctor that operates on Elie's foot. He promises Elie that he will walk again.
- 16. **Zalman:** A Polish lad, who works with Elie at the electrical warehouse at Buna, he falls behind during the winter march to Gleiwitz. Elie believes the other prisoners trampled Zalman.

- 17. **Rabbi Eliahou:** A rabbi of a small Polish community, he is described as beloved by everyone in the camp, including the Kapos. Known to shine with inner purity, his words always bring comfort to the people. As he goes around looking for his son, Elie remembers how he had seen the rabbi's son abandon him during the winter march. Elie prays that he does not become like the rabbi's son.
- 18. **Meir**: On the winter transfer to Buchenwald, he kills his father over a morsel of bread. After he snatches the bread from his father, he himself is killed by other men.
- 19. **Meir Katz:** A friend of Elie's father, he is one of the strongest in the camp. Elie's father calls for Meir's help when Elie is choked during the night. Near the end of the trip to Buchenwald, Meir starts to lose hope and tells Elie's father that he cannot make it. He dies as they arrive at Buchenwald.

Objects/Places:

- 1. **Sighet:** Little town in Transylvania where Elie and his family live before they are deported to the concentration camps.
- 2. **Talmud:** Jewish religious text. Elie is devoted to its studies before his internment.
- 3. **cabbala:** Jewish mystical writings that emphasize the significance of numbers, among other things. Elie studies the cabbala under Moshe the Beadle.
- 4. **cattle trains (wagons):** Train cars that the Germans use to transport the Jews to the concentration camps.
- 5. **yellow star:** A decree comes from the Germans that all Jews wear this identifying symbol. Elie's father's response to the decree is that at least no one dies of it.
- 6. **ghettos:** Jewish settlements set up by the Germans. Two ghettos are created in Sighet before the Jews are deported to the concentration camps.
- **7. Auschwitz:** The first concentration camp to which the Jews of Sighet are taken. Elie and his father spend three weeks there before being relocated to Buna.
- 8. **Birkenau:** The reception center for Auschwitz. Elie and his father are separated from the female members of the family. Elie's mother and youngest sister are exterminated at Birkenau.
- 9. **crematory:** The fiery furnace where many Jews are sent to their deaths.
- 10. **baton:** Dr. Mengele uses it to separate the prisoners to the left and to the right. The selection process is used to determine those who live and those who die.
- 11. **Kaddish:** A prayer for the dead. Akiba Drumer asks fellow prisoners to recite the Kaddish after his death.

- 12. **A-7713:** The identification number engraved on Elie's arm at Auschwitz. The camp overseers refer to the prisoners by their numbers.
- 13. **Buna:** The second concentration camp where Elie and his father are taken to, it is at Buna where they face the hardest labor and abuse.
- 14. **Palestine:** At Auschwitz, Elie and his friends, Yossi and Tibi talk about going to Palestine after the war. Earlier in the novel, Elie suggests that they relocate to Palestine. Elie's father says that he is too old to start over.
- 15. **(Elie's) gold crown:** A Jewish dentist from Czechoslovakia tries to extract Elie's gold crown without success. However, Franck, the foreman, gets Elie's gold crown by tormenting his father.
- 16. **gallows:** The place of several hangings, including the pipel with the face of an angel.
- 17. **bell:** The bell regulates everything in the camp. The bell signals roll call and even the selection. Elie wishes for a world without bells.
- 18. **Gleiwitz:** The camp the prisoners reach during the winter march. The prisoners move from Gleiwitz to Buchenwald.
- 19. **Juliek's violin:** Juliek plays the violin in a room full of dying men. In the morning, Elie finds Juliek dead and the violin smashed.
- 20. **Beethoven's concerto:** The piece that Juliek plays before his death.
- 21. **Buchenwald:** The concentration camp where Elie's father dies. A Jewish resistance takes control of the camp.

Romeo & Juliet:

Romeo: Romeo is a Montague. He grieves for the love of Rosaline, but falls in love with Juliet, Capulet's daughter, at the Capulet feast. Romeo is quick to love and acts impulsively by killing himself by drinking poison when he thinks Juliet is dead.

Juliet: Juliet is a Capulet. She falls in love with Romeo and is willing to do anything to be with him, even though her family is in a feud with his family. She feigns death so she does not have to marry Paris, but only to awaken to find Romeo actually dead right next to her. She takes his sword and kills herself because she does not want to live without her Romeo.

Capulet: The head of one of the major families in Verona, and also Juliet's father. They are in a feud with the Montague family. He is very demanding and wants Juliet to do what he says; Capulet tries to make her marry Paris, against her wishes.

Capulet's wife: The wife of Capulet and Juliet's mother. She supports her husband and tries to make Juliet marry Paris, even though Juliet refuses. She is also protective of her family and is very angry when she learns that Tybalt has been killed. She demands Romeo be killed, but instead, the Prince simply exiles him.

Montague: The head of one of the major families in Verona, and also Romeo's father. They are in a feud with the Capulet family.

Montague's wife: The wife of Montague and Romeo's mother. She is affected by the feud with the Capulets and grieves deeply when she learns her son is exiled. Her grief is so deep that she dies at the end of the play.

Friar Laurence: Romeo's friend and confidant. He agrees to marry Romeo and Juliet in hopes that their marriage will end the feud between the Capulets and the Montagues. He also watches out for Romeo. For instance, after Romeo kills Tybalt, Friar Laurence tells him to go to Mantua, where he will be safe. At the end of the play, he blames himself for the deaths of Romeo and Juliet, but the Prince frees him of any fault, because his intentions were honest and noble.

Mercutio: A friend of the Prince and Romeo. He likes to fight and cause trouble with his mouth, such as when he angers the Nurse. He challenges Tybalt to a duel after Tybalt insults his good friend, Romeo. He is killed by Tybalt in this duel.

Nurse: Juliet's nurse, who has taken care of Juliet since she was a baby. Juliet is extremely fond of her nurse. The nurse tries to help Juliet by bringing messages to Romeo, who is eventually banished from Verona to Mantua.

Tybalt: A member of the Capulet family. He is hot-tempered and hates the Montagues. He is angered when he learns that Romeo showed up at the Capulet feast. He sends Romeo a letter and challenges him. After insulting Romeo in the public square, Mercutio responds by challenging him to a duel. Tybalt kills Mercutio, but then is killed by Romeo as a consequence.

Paris: A friend of the Prince. He is betrothed to Juliet, but is killed by Romeo in Juliet's tomb. Romeo feels guilty for the murder, so he answered Paris' dying wish and lies his body next to Juliet's.

Benvolio: A member of the Montague family. He is a nephew, and he is also Romeo's best friend. He tries to help Romeo get over his infatuation with Rosaline by bringing him to the Capulet feast to see other pretty women.

Prince Escalus: The price of Verona. He tries to keep order among the Capulets and Montagues. He threatens death if the two families do not stop the on-going feud that has caused much of the civil disorder in Verona.

Friar John: He is supposed to deliver Friar Laurence's message to Romeo that says that Juliet is not really dead. He never makes it to Romeo, who is in Mantua, and Romeo thinks that Juliet is really dead.

Balthasar: Servant to the Montague family. He informs Romeo in Mantua that Juliet is dead.

Sampson: Servant to the Capulet family. He opens the play in a conversation with Gregory.

Gregory: Servant to the Capulet family. He opens the play in a conversation with Sampson.

Chorus: Gives the prologues.

Settings (time) - Renaissance (fourteenth or fifteenth century)

Settings (place) - Verona and Mantua (cities in northern Italy)

Themes

- The forcefulness of love
- Love as a cause of violence
- The individual against society
- The inevitability of fate

Iambic Pentameter - The most common meter in English verse. It consists of a line ten syllables long that is accented on every second beat