

# **Elie Wiesel's *Night***

**character analysis**

**pages *xvii-xxi* and 3-22**

In his foreword, Mauriac says that when he met him after the war Wiesel possessed “the gaze of a Lazarus risen from the dead yet still held captive in the somber regions into which he had strayed, stumbling over desecrated corpses. For him, Nietzsche’s cry articulated an almost physical reality: God is dead” (*xix-xx*). To understand the young man Mauriac meets, we need to understand how he and his community change.

1. What is Wiesel like in chapter 1? His primary interests? His attitude? His personality?
2. Describe his father and the Jewish community of Sighet. How are they blind and forgetful?
3. What is Moishe the Beadle’s role? How is he like the Wiesel who is depicted in chapter 1?
4. How does their world change so quickly? How do their former neighbors react?