

Gifted English 10

***Night* as Memoir and Coming-of-Age**

Section 1: pages 3-28

Section 2: pages 29-65

Section 3: pages 66-97

Section 4: pages 98-115

Memoir Double-Entry Journal

As you read, you need to record eight entries for each section. Identify and explain quotations (cite page numbers) that are significant to Elie Wiesel's Holocaust experience and the meaning of *Night*—and which reveal specific traits of the memoir or coming-of-age story. On the left side of your double-entry journal, record the significant quotation, including page number in parenthetical citation. In the center, identify the trait (*i.e.*, M2 or COA 3). On the right, explain how the quotation is an example of this characteristic and how it reveals the Wiesel's personal journey and growth and/or the meaning of *Night*.

Memoir Characteristics:

1. A memoir focuses on a brief period of time or series of related events (doesn't cover a great span of years). It explores an event or series of related events that remain lodged in memory. The narrative is limited to a particular phase, time period, place, or recurring behavior in order to develop the focus fully. A memoir focuses and reflects on the relationship between the writer and a particular person, place, animal, event, or object.
2. There is a fictional quality even though the story is true, and the story exhibits emotional intensity. The memoir makes the subject of the memoir come alive. It adheres to narrative structure, including the usual elements of storytelling such as setting, plot development, imagery, conflict, characterization, foreshadowing and flashback, and irony and symbolism.
3. The writer includes a personal reconstruction of the events and their impact. The experience of writing is therapeutic for the writer, especially when the memoir recounts a crisis or life-threatening experience. The writer contemplates the meaning of these events in retrospect by describing events and then shows, either directly or indirectly, why they are significant—in short, why the author continues to remember them.
4. The writer maintains a first-person point of view. The memoir is thus personal and intimate—but reveals a thematic message that speaks beyond the writer's experience to address the human condition.

Coming-of-Age Story Characteristics:

1. A coming-of-age story traces the protagonist's growth from a self-absorbed, immature individual into an expansive, mature human being concerned with the welfare of others, and his/her place in the world scheme.
2. The protagonist is initiated into adulthood through knowledge gained and/or experience—often by a process of disillusionment.
3. The protagonist's growth is achieved through abandonment of preconceptions, destruction of a false sense of security, and loss of innocence.
4. The protagonist changes from ignorance to knowledge, innocence to experience, false view of world to truthful view, idealism to realism, and immature responses to mature responses.