

Name

Mrs. Renner

English 3

28 February 2017

Surviving the Night

- Appropriate + catchy title

HOOK

Running through the freezing pitch black night, stomach aching, body threatening to drop. Thousands of bodies pushing from behind. How could people possibly survive? The holocaust was a living nightmare for millions of people who searched desperately for anything that could help them survive. These things could be as small as a piece of silverware or as big as a family. In Elie Wiesel's *Night*, Elie and his father are put through the horrific experience of being prisoners in the Holocaust. Through luck or fate, somehow Elie finds himself free in the end. Elie survives because of his love for his family, his and other people's humanity, and his health and appearance.

} Hook or Motivator

} Summary

Thesis: Elie survives because of his love for his family, his and other people's humanity, and his health and appearance.

BPT: his love for his family

BPA: his and other people's humanity

BP3: health and appearance

TS#1 To begin with, Elie Wiesel has so much love for his father and keeps telling himself he has to survive because his father can not live without him.

He knows his father is weak and he can not live without the help and love from his son. "Come, Father. It's better there. You'll be able to lie down there. We'll take turns. I'll watch over you and you'll watch over me. We won't let each other fall asleep. We'll look after each other" (89). Elie and his father run for endless miles through the dark and freezing night. If someone fell asleep there was a good chance they would never wake up again. Elie is protecting his dad when he says they should look after each other. He can't let his father die, so he makes himself stay alive to help his father. Furthermore, Elie comforts his dad while he is crying. "The world? The world is not interested in us. Today, everything is possible, even the crematoria..." His voice broke. 'Father,' I said. 'If that is true, then I don't want to wait. I'll run into the electrified barbed wire. That would be easier than a slow death in the flames.' He didn't answer. He was weeping. His body was shaking" (35). This exchange occurs when the Jews had left the ghettos and had been transported to Auschwitz. When his father is torn up about his wife and daughters, Elie tries his best to comfort his father because he knows he can't lose all his family. He tells his father that he will fight for what's right or he shall die because he knows he cannot live without him.

TS#2 Another factor of survival Elie has on his side is humanity. He knows he needs to do things to stay humane. "He reached the first cauldron. Hearts were pounding harder: he had succeeded. Jealousy devoured us, consumed us. We never thought to admire him. Poor hero committing suicide for a ration or two or more of soup... In our minds, he was already dead" (59). The prisoners are rarely fed and Elie knows he needs food. He

- notice the punctuation of the quotes
- period goes at the very end after the page #

knows that he has to push past his limitations to survive, which he does. He has to put himself in danger to stay humane. A lot of times, Elie and the rest of the prisoners have to stare death in the face just to stay alive. Elie's survival doesn't have to do with only him being humane but other people in his life, too. For example the very nice French girl Elie encounters. "She looked straight into my eyes. I knew she wanted to talk to me but that she was paralyzed with fear. She remained like that for some time, and then her face lit up and she said, in almost perfect German: 'Bite your lips, little brother...Don't cry. Keep your anger, your hate, for another day, for later. The day will come but not now...Wait. Clench your teeth and wait'" (53). The French girl finds Elie after he is beaten up by Idek. Elie is in very bad shape and the French girl takes care of him and even gives him food. For Elie to survive, he is not the only one who has to have humanity. Another man helps Elie and his father at the first camp. "'Hey, kid, how old are you?' The man interrogating me was an inmate. I could not see his face, but his voice was weary and warm. 'Fifteen.' 'No. You're eighteen.' 'But I'm not,' I said. 'I'm fifteen.' 'Fool. Listen to what I say.' Then he asked my father, who answered: 'I'm fifty.' 'No.' The man now sounded angry. 'Not fifty. You're forty. Do you hear? Eighteen and forty'" (30). The man knows that if they lie, they will not be sent to the crematoria, but instead put into hard labor. This man helps Elie and his Father tremendously.

Transition  
Sentence

TS#3 One more factor that contributes to Elie's survival is his health and appearance. Elie is a young and healthy boy, which means he was able to avoid immediate death. "In no time, I stood before him. "Your age?" he asked, perhaps trying to sound paternal. "I'm eighteen." My voice was trembling. "'In good health?' 'Yes.' 'Your profession?' Tell him that I was a student? 'Farmer,' I heard myself saying. This conversation lasted no more than a few seconds. It seemed like an eternity. The baton pointed to the left. I took half a step forward. I first wanted to see where they would send my father. Were he to have gone to the right, I would have run after him. The baton, once more, moved to the left. A weight lifted from my heart" (31). The SS officer sees that Elie is in good health. This saves Elie from being sent to the crematoria right off the bat. Another time Elie's health saves him again. "I was putting one foot in front of the other, like a machine. I was dragging this emaciated body that was still such a weight. If only I could have shed it! Though I tried to put it out of my mind, I couldn't help thinking that there were two of us: my body and I. And I hated that body. I kept repeating to myself: 'Don't think, don't stop, run!' Near me, men were collapsing into the dirty snow" (85). While the prisoners evacuating their camp, they have to run many, many miles in the freezing cold. Many of the prisoners dropped dead in the middle of the evacuation. Since Elie is a healthy young man, he survives the run. If he wasn't healthy, he wouldn't have survived the run.

stay in  
present  
tense

Although it was almost impossible for millions to survive the holocaust, Elie Wiesel's love for his family, his humanity, and his health and appearance helped him survive. His experience as a holocaust prisoner is beyond anything we can imagine. While he survived, Elie came out of the experience without any living

restated thesis

BP1

BP2

BP3

family members. However, he came out a stronger person and even wrote books about his Holocaust experience that teach readers today about the importance of never forgetting the tragedy. According to Wiesel, "I decided to devote my life to telling the story because I felt that having survived, I owe something to the dead, and anyone who does not remember them, betrays them again."

} Lesson

\* a quote is also an effective clincher

#### 4 paragraph Lit Analysis on *Night* by Elie Wiesel

\*Paper must be **500-600 words** in length, which will be approximately 1 ½ typed pages.

No longer, no shorter~

Due ~~Tuesday~~ 3/9

In MLA format (1" margins, 4 line info, header), type an **intro** with a **motivator** that mentions **title & author**, gives 2-3 sentence **summary** and ends with the **thesis statement**.

For whichever thesis statement you choose, write **two (2) body** paragraphs, so you are finding two examples or incidents or details from the book to support thesis.

For each body paragraph, use at least two (2) **BRIEF** passages or quotes or phrases from the novel for support. Remember to put them in quotes and use parentheses for in-text citations. (p. 72).

Choose **ONE** of the following thesis statements. Use these exact words in your thesis statement which will be the last sentence of your introduction.

- A. Elie Wiesel, upon witnessing the hanging of the "youth from Warsaw" and the hanging of the "sad-eyed angel" reacts differently. (develop each in one paragraph)
- B. *Night* demonstrates that cruelty breeds cruelty. (Kapo says to Eliezer "Here, every man has to fight.") Pick two incidents that demonstrate this concept.
- C. Fire appears throughout *Night* as a symbol of the Nazi's cruel power. Maybe think of two categories of fire and provide examples of each.
- D. Acts of kindness and compassion exist among the degradation and violence of *Night*. Maybe think of two categories of kindness and provide examples or choose two characters who demonstrate kindness and compassion in different ways.
- E. Elie Wiesel survived the Holocaust when millions of other people did not. Choose one part of Elie's experience that most helped him survive: the people, his own character traits, or items he came across. Focus your thesis statement on just one of these **THREE** topics, then come up with **TWO** items in each category (that is, two people or two character traits, or two items)

