Tenth Grade Summer Reading

*Night* by Elie Wiesel

**All students** entering 10th grade **merit or honors** English will be required to read *Night* by Elie Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor who shares his haunting tale to keep the memory alive. His gripping account poignantly narrates one of history’s darkest times, and his story is quite captivating. Your task, however, will be to look beyond the events that occur to explore how *his telling of the story* effectively supports his purpose in writing the book.

Consider the following:

1. **Why** does Wiesel share such painful memories? Read the preface to help with this question.
2. **How** does the **way** he tells the story support his purpose in telling it. Think about the author's craft here. How is his writing the same or different from other writing you have read? Read closely to discover how his use of **significant details, characterization, dialogue**, **irony**, **figurative language**, **rhetorical questions**, and **simple sentence structure** supports his purpose. Use post-its or flags to mark passages that best illustrate your findings or take notes on your own paper indicating the page numbers and selections you have chosen.

You will use this text as a part of a small thematic unit on Holocaust literature the first week of school and you will be assessed on your work! This unit, though brief, will provide the foundation for the remainder of the semester as it focuses on **close reading** and **analyzing how a text is written** instead of focusing on simply what it is about or what happens in the story. It is important that you take your time to read closely and really think about the **way** Wiesel delivers his message! **Do not rely on online summaries of the book as *how* its written--not just *what* is written--will be the focus of your assessment.**

Most students thoroughly enjoy this engaging text, though its subject matter is often disturbing. The book is short and fast paced (especially after chapter one), and it is very accessible—even for reluctant readers. Don’t overlook the complexity of the text, though, and the sophisticated tools the author uses that have made it a success and one of the most widely read Holocaust stories.

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**Honors students** will also be required to visit Nobelprize.org to watch a video of Wiesel’s Nobel Prize acceptance speech and read his Nobel lecture. If you do not have internet access at home, you should visit a local library in order to do this. Be sure to take notes on what you see and read and think about how his speech and lecture are similar in purpose to his memoir but differ from it in their delivery. Like the skills practiced in the reading of *Night* itself, synthesizing multiple texts is an essential skill at the honors level, so you should be very familiar with the selections from the website as well.

Books will be available at the high school for pick up during the material drop-off days, June 8-10, but you are certainly able to either check a book out from the local library or purchase your own.. I look forward to meeting each of you.

Happy reading!