

Night Study Guide Chapters 4-5

Chapter Four (p. 55)

1. "I was angry with him, for not knowing how to avoid Idek's outbreak. That is what concentration camp life had made of me." Who is Eliezer angry with in this scene? Why? What realization does Eliezer come to about his life in the concentration camp?
2. "Terror was stronger than hunger." What does Wiesel mean by this? We witness scenes in which the Jews have been reduced to acting and even treating their fellow prisoners like rabid animals. During the air raids over Buna, a starved man risks being shot by crawling to cauldron of soup. Where else do we see examples of humans committing such instance acts? What leads people to such horrific behavior?
3. While at Buna, Elie witnesses the hanging of many prisoners. How do most of these hangings affect him? How does he react to the hanging of the child? Why does he react differently?
4. "Where is God now? And I heard a voice within me answer: Where is He? Here He is- He is hanging here on the gallows." What does he mean by this? How could God have been hanged? How have Elie's thoughts and feelings changed since the beginning of his experience at the camps.

Chapter Five (p.73)

1. "I said nothing. Nor did he. We had never understood one another so clearly." Explain this quotation. What was understood so clearly?

2. "Don't let yourself be fooled with illusions. Hitler has made it very clear that he will annihilate all the Jews before the clock strikes twelve, before they can hear the last stroke."
I burst out: "What does it matter to you? Do we have to regard Hitler as a prophet?"
His glazed, faded eyes looked at me. At last he said in a weary voice: "I've got more faith in Hitler than in anyone else. He's the only one who's kept his promises, all his promises, to the Jewish people."

What do you make of this exchange with Elie's "faceless" neighbor in the hospital? What is the "faceless" man's point?

3. Just before the forced march to Gleiwitz, Elie and his father must make a critical decision. What is their decision? How does it affect their future?