

Part Four—(Sections Five-Six, pp. 63-92)

Comprehension Check

As you read and take notes using the note-taking technique described on page 15, use the Comprehension Check questions below to help guide your understanding of all aspects of the novel. You may want to use these questions to help you take notes. After reading the given sections, answer the questions on a separate sheet of paper.

Section Five (pp. 63-80)

1. On the last day of this year, how was the way the prisoners looked at Rosh Hashanah different from the way they used to view the Jewish New Year?
2. How do Elie's thoughts show that he is losing faith in God?
3. Analyze Wiesel's meaning in the following statements: "I was no longer capable of lamentation... I felt very strong. I was the accuser, God the accused.... I stood amid that praying congregation, observing it like a stranger."
4. What was the "fine New Year's gift" the SS gave the prisoners?
5. Rations had become more meager. Is that a good or a bad thing? Why?
6. What was Elie's "inheritance"?
7. What was Elie's father's fate at the second selection?
8. Describe Elie's surgery.
9. What would have happened to Elie if he had stayed in the hospital after his surgery?
10. What was the last act performed by the men an hour before leaving camp? Why?

Section Six (pp. 81-92)

1. Why do you think the men were forced to run? What would be their fate if they did not?
2. Why were men underfoot crushed, trampled, dying? Why did no one pay attention?
3. Why wouldn't Elie allow himself to go to sleep again in the shed, even as his father watched over him?
4. As Rabbi Eliahou came looking for his son, what did we learn about his son?
5. Upon arrival at Gleiwitz, Elie and his father were thrown into a mass of bodies. How did this happen to them and what did they do to free themselves?
6. While he was trapped under the many bodies, Elie heard a rattling cry from somewhere beneath them. It was an old friend Juliek. What was Juliek most concerned about? What did he do with it?
7. What do you think happened to Juliek that night?
8. What happened to Elie's father as the selection was taking place? How did the confusion save him?