

Name or Reviewer Username or Anonymous: Anonymous

School: Valencia High

Grade: Senior

Book Title: Night

Book Author: Elie Wiesel

Rating (1-lowest to 5-highest): 4.0

Elie Wiesel's *Night* is a memoir that describes the horrors of living in Nazi occupied Europe during the 1940s. The book is a first hand account of Wiesel's personal experiences during his early life. The story follows him and members of his family through his original hometown in Sighet, then to a couple of concentration camps where he would stay until 1945. 1945 was of course the year that the Allied powers liberated many concentration camps.

Throughout the memoir, Wiesel was just 15 years old. Although the book is not truly a commentary about the war and the violent nature of Nazism, it is not difficult to draw conclusions about the lack of empathy or even conscience that the Nazis exhibited during the 1940s. People were practically forced towards death by hunger, violence, dysentery, disease and severe cold solely because of their religion and heritage. The details surrounding the lasting impact just about every person Elie met during transport, and in the concentration camps are devastating. Similarly, the language in the book is strong and captivating, it is important to note that the book was originally written in French by Wiesel himself before being translated personally by his wife. One of my favorite characters was Rabbi Eliahu, although he was not a main character. One of the chapters that included him told a deeply unsettling truth about human nature portrayed by the Rabbi's son.

The memoir, *Night*, is a very impactful and heavy read. It provides first hand insight on what truly happened during the systematic genocide of millions of people. I would recommend this book, especially for people who enjoy learning about historical, non-fiction related topics.