

Part One: Comprehension

1. What were Elie's religious thoughts as the Jewish year came to an end?
2. How, during the solemn service on the last night of the Jewish year, did the men in the labor camp prove that all they had suffered in the camps had not diminished their religious faith?
3. Define Kaddish.
4. What was the meaning of 'selection'?
5. What advice did the head of Elie's block give the men before selection was about to begin?
6. Define Stubenaelteste and Blockaelteste.
7. Why was Mr. Wiesel told to stay in camp one day instead of going out with the rest of the workers?
8. Before Elie left the camp for work, what did Mr. Wiesel give him and why?
9. What was the doctor's diagnosis of Elie's condition? What did the doctor do to Elie's foot?
10. Although they had heard them many times before, why did the prisoners believe the rumors that the Red Army was closing in on the camp?
11. During the march to the new camp, what was the fate of those who could not keep up? How was Elie able to sleep during the march?
12. By morning, how many miles had the prisoners marched? What was the name of their new camp?
13. As the men were installed in the barracks, Elie and his father were thrown to the ground by the tide of men rushing in, who did Elie fall upon?
14. What did the prisoners eat while they waited for the train to take them to the next camp?

Part Two: Big Ideas & Looking at Language

1. Why did Elie rebel against the solemn ceremony that he witnessed? Describe the changes in Elie's character since Chapter 1 (reference #1 & #2 above).
2. Explain Elie's metaphor: "We stayed for a long time at the assembly place. No one dared to drag himself away from this mirage."
3. Discuss the possible reasons Elie may not have been chosen for selection.
4. What happened that made Elie believe there still were miracles on earth? What theme might this reinforce? Explain, using examples from the text.
5. What was the reason Elie believed the rabbi from Poland and Akiba Drumer had been chosen for selection? How does this link to the themes of the memoir?
6. Why did Elie choose to leave with the evacuees? What terrible mistake did Elie make when he chose to leave with the evacuees instead of staying behind in the infirmary?
7. What was Elie's reaction to Zalman's death?
8. What prevented Elie from giving up? How does this link to your answer to #1? What other themes does this reinforce? Discuss using examples from the text.
9. Why did Mr. Wiesel advise Elie not to sleep?
10. Why did Rabbi Eliahou's search for his missing son cause Elie to pray to God? What themes are reinforced by this situation? Discuss using other examples from the text.
11. Explain the character of Juliek. What is the function of this character in the narrative? Why do you think Elie hears music during the first night in the new camp? What is the effect of Juliek's death on Elie? What theme does this support?
12. How was Elie able to save his father's life from selection? What theme does this support? Explain, using examples from the text.