

Part One: Comprehension

1. How did Elie help his father when they were on the train? How many were on the train?
2. How many got off the train and where had they arrived?
3. Explain how the father/son roles had been reversed between Elie and his father. Provide examples from the text, and cite page numbers when possible to support your response.
4. Why was Elie's father being beaten?
5. How does Elie feel about his father as he becomes sicker? How does Elie feel about his own life at this point in the narrative?
6. What happened on April 5th?
7. What is the resistance, and what did it do?
8. What do the prisoners do when they are liberated?

Part Two: Big Ideas & Looking at Language

1. Describe the scene Elie witness between another father and son on the train. What theme(s) does the author convey with this narrative?
2. What does Elie think of the advice given to him by the head of the block upon arrival? Discuss Elie's thoughts and feelings using evidence from the narrative to support your response.
3. How is the theme of indifference demonstrated in these chapters of the memoir? Provide evidence from the text, and cite page numbers to support your response.
4. Discuss the relationships between fathers and sons in this section. Why do you think the author focuses so closely on this concept toward the end of the memoir? Provide support for your response from the text.
5. Discuss how family relationships have been important throughout the memoir. Compare how Elie's feelings compare to Stein Antwerp's feelings from earlier in the narrative.
6. At one point, Meir Katz wonders why the Germans don't just shoot the prisoners, as it would probably be more merciful. Why do you think the Germans chose to keep the prisoners alive?
7. Provide examples of the following themes from these (and earlier) chapters: inhumanity, family, faith, loss, lies and deception. Provide examples from the text to support your responses.
8. Why don't you think the prisoners are focused on revenge when they are liberated? Explain, support your response with examples from the text.
9. For each of the following quotes, discuss what rhetorical strategy is used by the author:
 - "I probably brought him more satisfaction than I had done during my whole childhood."
 - "The night was gone. The morning star was shining in the sky. I too had become a completely different person. The student of the Talmud, the child that I was, had been consumed in the flames... A dark flame had entered my soul and devoured it."
 - "Yet another last night. The last night at home, the last night in the ghetto, the last night in the train, the last night in Buna. "
 - "After my father's death, nothing could touch me anymore."
 - "From the depths of the mirror, a corpse gazed back at me."