8th Grade Summer Assignment

Social Studies

Welcome to 8th Grade! I hope that you enjoy your summer break and take some time for yourself. You will also be required to complete a summer assignment for Social Studies which will be due on the first day of school. This is a **mandatory** assignment and will be your first set of grades in Social Studies for the 2026-27 school year. Below is the information that you need in order to complete the assignment.

The book you will be reading for this assignment is **Night** by Elie Wiesel. This is a memoir of his experiences as a teenager, along with his father, in the Nazi death camps during the Holocaust. When you have finished reading the book, complete the assignments using the directions on the next page and respond to the questions on the printed paper. This book will make you smile at times, think about your faith, shock you, make you mad, make you sad and maybe even cry. There are some heavy parts in it, so keep that in mind as you read.

In addition to what's printed here on paper, you will be required to respond to three sets of questions about the book. One set is for the first ⅓ of the book, one for the middle of the book, and then the last one for the last part of the book. These will be posted on Google classroom once Sycamore turns over in June and we are able to get you added to the 8th grade class. Until that happens, a printed copy of the questions are attached here.

Remember, both the three sets of questions and the items on this packet are ***REQUIRED*** and must be completed and turned in on the first day of school. You will also need to bring in your book to return on the first day of school. If you lose or damage your book, you will be required to pay for a replacement.

Directions for Non-Fiction Report: Be sure to label ***each*** part with your name and the title of the book, along with the author. (See Grading Rubric)

1. Print off pages of non-fiction report (see below).

2. On the back of the second page of report questions, write a list of 5 questions that you came up with that you would like to ask the author, Elie Wiesel. These questions **should not** have already been answered in the book, and should be "thinking questions"--not easily answered in one or two words.

3. Choose ***ONE*** of the activities below (use an 8 ½ x 11 sheet of white unlined paper):

A. Create a new book cover design for your book. The drawing should cover most of the page and should be fully colored (including the background) and detailed, and should include the title and author. This should be neatly done, not scribbled and the writing should be neat and dark enough to see if writing over colored areas.

B. Create a poster that we could use to advertise your book at the next book fair. It should get readers' attention. It should grab someone's attention with colorful drawings or phrases.

4. Staple all pages together to turn in to turn in on the first day of school.

Once we are back in school, you may have a test over the book. We will discuss in class and go over things of importance.

Please do your best work and have fun!

Nonfiction Book Report

Summarize the book. What were the main points? This should be a good paragraph or two explaining what happens in the book.

What was the most interesting thing that you learned from this book? Explain why it was interesting to you in detail.

Find the following quote in the novel. Give the page # and paragraphs where it is located.

Found on page _____ **Paragraph #** _____

"NEVER SHALL I FORGET that night, the first night in camp, that turned my life into one long night seven times sealed."

Explain its significance (consider what he means when saying "seven times sealed" in order to explain the significance.

Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?

8th Grade Nonfiction Summer Reading Assignment Rubric

Name

Book Title: **Night** by Elie Wiesel

	Total Points	4	3	2	1
Name (on each page)		Both first & last name, placed on each page	Both first & last name, but not on each page	First or last name, but not both, on each page	First or last name, but not both, not on each page
Title & Author (each page)		Both present and stated exactly as on title page	Both present but not stated exactly as the title page	Missing either title or author, or words misspelled	Both misspelled, one missing
Summarize Book (Main Points)		5 or more main points are clearly defined. Sentences are well-written.	3 or more main points are clearly defined in at least 3 sentences.	3 or more main points are listed in sentences. Sentences are not complete or are missing details.	1-2 main points are given.
Most interesting thing learned		Student's interesting point is clearly written with explanation	Student's interesting point is written with reason, may lack details	Student's interesting point is listed with no details	Student's interesting thing is present but unclear
Response to quote		Student's response is clearly written with explanation	Student's response is written, may lack details	Student's response is given with no details	Student's response is present but unclear
Recommend? Why/Why not?		Student's recommendation is clearly written with clear reason and explanation.	Student's recommendation is written with reason, may lack details	Student's opinion is given, no explanation given	Student's opinion is given but unclear
New book cover design/ book poster		It looks AMAZING!!! Picture is drawn, colorful, & neat. Picture clearly "markets" the book. Picture is on 8x11 paper.	It looks good, but aspects may be "borrowed" rather than original work. Project is drawn, and colorful. Picture "markets" the book. Picture is on 8x11 paper.	It looks okay. Picture might not be colorful or may lack effort. Picture is on 8x11 paper	Picture lacks effort and does not follow all directions, including marketing the book. Picture is not on 8x11 paper.
5 questions		5 well-written questions are provided with good grammar and punctuation. The questions are higher-level thinking questions.	5 questions for that person are provided with good grammar and punctuation. Questions may be less detailed.	5 questions for that person are provided, but lacking depth or higher-level thinking.	1-4 questions are provided, or five questions are provided with little depth.
Spelling		There are no spelling errors	There are one or two errors	There are more than two spelling errors	There are 4 or more spelling errors
Neatness		Handwritten work is done neatly throughout	Handwritten work has one area that is sloppy	Handwritten work has two areas that are sloppy	Handwritten work is illegible or has more than two sloppy areas
Google Form Responses #1		Answered all questions thoroughly & thoughtfully	Answered all questions but with few details or thoughtfulness	Answered questions without any details or thoughtfulness	Barely answered questions, no details to show they had read
Google Form Responses #2		Answered all questions thoroughly & thoughtfully	Answered all questions but with few details or thoughtfulness	Answered questions without any details or thoughtfulness	Barely answered questions, no details to show they had read
Google Form Responses #3		Answered all questions thoroughly & thoughtfully	Answered all questions but with few details or thoughtfulness	Answered questions without any details or thoughtfulness	Barely answered questions, no details to show they had read

Night by Elie Wiesel Part 1, pgs 3-39

This Part 1 of 3 Assignments you will complete on the novel Night. There is a mix of short answer and multiple choice questions. w

* Indicates required question

1. Email *

2. **Last Name** *

3. **First Name** *

4. **Who was Moishe the Beadle?** * 2 points

5. **Why did Eliezer spend a lot of time with Moishe?** * 2 points

6. **What happened to Moishe that caused a great change in him?** * 2 points

7. **In the spring of 1944, what does Elie wish his father would do?** * 2 points

Mark only one oval.

- ◯ Elie wants his father to move the family to America.
- ◯ He wants his father to sell everything and go to Palestine.
- ◯ He wishes his father would help more Jews acquire safe passage.
- ◯ Elie wants his father to spend more time with him.

8. **How does Elie's father respond to his son's wish?** * 2 points

Mark only one oval.

- He says helping more Jews is too dangerous.
- He agrees to spend more time with Elie.
- He says he is too old to start over.
- He reminds Elie of the impossibility of moving to America.

9. **What were the ghettos?** * 2 points

10. **Who offered Eliezer's family safe refuge?** * 2 points

11. **What are cattle cars?** * 2 points

12. **What are the conditions for the Jews on the train?** * 2 points

Mark only one oval.

- There is a seating and sleeping area.
- Each Jew has a sleeping bag and provisions.
- There are games to play to keep them busy.
- The conditions are crowded and hot.

13. **As the trip continues, what does the passenger named Madame Schachter scream about?** * 2 points

Mark only one oval.

- She screams for more food and water.
- She continues to complain that she is ill.
- She screams about fire, flames, and a furnance.
- She worries that the train will derail.

14. **How do the others in the cattle car perceive Madame Schachter?** * 2 points

Mark only one oval.

- They think she is insane.
- They think she is a prophet.
- They think she is selfish.
- They think she is knowledgeable.

15. **The evening the cattle cars arrived in Birkenau, what did the passengers see as they looked outside.** * 2 points

Mark only one oval.

- They saw the other people from their hometown waiting on them at the train station.
- They saw flames rising from a tall chimney.
- They saw nothing, the train stopped in an area where there was no people nor any buildings around.
- They saw the German army lined up ready to take charge of the passengers.

16. **Who are SS officers? (you can google this if needed)** * 2 points

17. **At Birkenau, what does a fellow prisoner tell Elie and his father to do?** * 2 points

Mark only one oval.

- He tells them to be sure to tell the truth about their ages.
- He tells them to keep their eyes averted downward at all times.
- He tells them to smile.
- He tells them to lie about their ages.

18. **When Elie's father asks directions to the washroom, what happens to him?** * 2 points

Mark only one oval.

- He is ignored.
- The officer knocks him to the ground.
- The officer yells racial slurs at him.
- He is sent to the crematory.

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Google Forms

Night by Elie Wiesel Part 2, pgs 40-77 (stop at the break at the bottom - above "Winter had arrived.")

This is Part 2 of 3 Assignments you will complete on the novel Night. There is a mix of short answer and multiple choice questions.

* Indicates required question

1. Email *

2. **Last Name** *

3. **First Name** *

4. **Why did Elie think Auschwitz was better than Birkenau upon his first impression?** * 2 points

5. **What is Elie's reaction to the thick soup offered to him the day after arriving at Auschwitz?** * 2 points

Mark only one oval.

- ◯ he eats it, then vomits
- ◯ he eagerly consumes it
- ◯ he throws it back at the server
- ◯ he refuses to eat it

6. **What do the SS officers do to the prisoners the day after arriving at Auschwitz?** * 2 points

Mark only one oval.

- ◯ they forece them to march on a five mile hike
- ◯ they withhold their food and water
- ◯ they brand them with numbers
- ◯ the SS officers make them watch the chimney

7. **What is A-7713?** * 2 points

Mark only one oval.

- the number branded on Elie's arm
- the number branded on the arm of Elie's father
- the number of Elie's prison block
- the emergency code for an escaped prisoner

8. **Why do you think Elie lied to Stein, his relative, about Stein's family? Do you think he made the right decision?** * 2 points

9. **After being in Auschwitz for three weeks, what happens to the Blockalteste assigned to Elie and his father?** * 2 points

Mark only one oval.

- he was killed by the prisoners
- he was killed by the other SS officers
- he was removed because he was considered too cruel
- he was removed because he was considered too humane

10. **When Elie and his father were taken to Buna, what was his job at first?** * 2 points

Mark only one oval.

- He worked in the camp kitchen
- he works in the electrical warehouse
- he assists the camp dentist
- he cleans the camp showers

11. **How does "selection" work?** * 2 points

12. **What happens to the prisoners that do not pass selections after both chances?** * 2 points

13. **During the air raid, only one prisoner dies. Explain how this happens.** * 2 points

14. **How do the SS guards execute prisoners who have committed crimes, making the other prisoners watch?** * 2 points

Mark only one oval.

- gas chamber
- hanging
- firing squad
- beheading

15. **Ellie witnessed several executions by the SS guards while he was at Buna. He had seen death many times, but one particular one they had to witness consisted of 3 people, one being a young boy. How did he describe the soup afterward that night?** * 2 points

16. **What does Elie eventually lose to Franek even though he tried to avoid this several times?** * 2 points

Mark only one oval.

- his food rations
- his shoes
- his clothes
- his gold crown

17. **According to Elie, what was his pitiful inheritance?** * 2 points

Mark only one oval.

- memories of his father in the concentration camps
- his lost boyhood n Sighet
- a few things he could evoke from his time with Moishe the Beadle
- a knife and spoon

18. **What is the Jewish prayer for the dead?** * 2 points

Mark only one oval.

- Talmud scriptures
- Bible scriptures
- Kaddish
- Kabala

Night by Elie Wiesel Part 3, pgs 77-115

This Part 3 of 3 Assignments you will complete on the novel Night. There is a mix of short answer and multiple choice questions. w

* Indicates required question

1. Email *

2. **Last Name** *

3. **First Name** *

4. **Why does Elie go to see the doctor?** * 2 points

Mark only one oval.

- ◯ he has been beaten
- ◯ his foot is infected
- ◯ his tooth aches
- ◯ he was whipped 25 lashes

5. **In the concentration camp hospital, Elie's neighbor remarks that he has lost his faith in everything except what?** * 2 points

Mark only one oval.

- ◯ God
- ◯ death
- ◯ Hitler
- ◯ Elie

6. **After Elie's surgery, why did Elie and his father decide to be evacuated with the others instead of staying back with the sick in the infirmary? (What were they afraid that would happen to them if they stayed)** * 2 points

7. **What actually happened to the Jews that were left behind when the camp is evacuated after Elie and his father decided to leave with the rest of the prisoners?** * 2 points

Mark only one oval.

- ◯ they were liberated
- ◯ they were killed by the remaining Nazis
- ◯ they overthrew the guards and escaped
- ◯ they died of cold and starvation

8. **During the long run after Buna, what does Elie say was the only thing that kept him from giving up?** * 2 points

Mark only one oval.

- his faith in God
- his desire for justice
- a sense of pride
- his father's presence

9. **What happened to the prisoners who stopped running or fell on the way to Gleiwitz?** * 2 points

Mark only one oval.

- they were left behind
- they were shot
- they were returned to Auschwitz
- they are rescued by the Americans

10. **How many people are put in the cattle cars when they travel in them the second time? These are the ones without a top.** * 2 points

_____

11. **What camp were Elie and his father taken to at the end of the book?** * 2 points

Mark only one oval.

- Buna
- Buchenwald
- Gleiwitz
- Auschwitz

12. **Once at the new camp, Elie hears a familiar voice and finds that Juliek was with him. What item was Elie surprised to find out that Juliek had brought with him?** * 2 points

_____

13. **What does Elie's father become sick from?** * 2 points

Mark only one oval.

- influenza
- tetanus
- jaundice
- dysentery

14. **What does Elie feel when he wakes up and his father is gone, knowing he was most likely taken to the crematoria?** * 2 points

Mark only one oval.

- relief, but also guilt
- sadness, but also acceptance
- anger, but also solace
- outrage, but also despair

15. **What was their "first act as free men" based on all they ever thought about? What did no one think about? Be sure to answer both parts.** * 3 points

16. **When Elie decided to look at himself in the mirror at the end, how does he describe the reflection looking back at him?** * 2 points

17. **How does Elie's relationship with God change throughout the novel? Give specific example(s).** * 3 points

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