

English 9 Honors



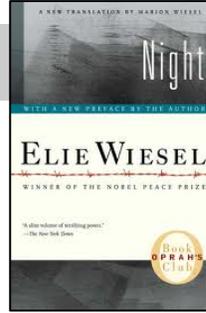
Animal Farm by George Orwell

As ferociously fresh as it was more than a half century ago, this remarkable allegory of a downtrodden society of overworked, mistreated animals and their quest to create a paradise of progress, justice, and equality is one of the most scathing satires ever published. As readers witness the rise and bloody fall of the revolutionary

animals, they begin to recognize the seeds of totalitarianism in the most idealistic organization—and in the most charismatic leaders, the souls of the cruelest oppressors. (from *Amazon*)

Signet Classics; 50th Anniversary edition (1996)

ISBN-10: 9780451526342



Night by Elie Wiesel

Night is Elie Wiesel's masterpiece, a candid, horrific, and deeply poignant autobiographical account of his survival as a teenager in the Nazi death camps. This new translation by Marion Wiesel, Elie's wife and frequent translator, presents this seminal memoir in the language and spirit truest to the author's original intent. And in a substantive new preface, Elie reflects on the

enduring importance of *Night* and his lifelong, passionate dedication to ensuring that the world never forgets man's capacity for inhumanity to man. *Night* offers much more than a litany of the daily terrors, everyday perversions, and rampant sadism at Auschwitz and Buchenwald; it also eloquently addresses many of the philosophical as well as personal questions implicit in any serious consideration of what the Holocaust was, what it meant, and what its legacy is and will be.

Hill and Wang; Revised edition (2006)

ISBN-13: 978-0374500016

READING ASSIGNMENTS

No sources, other than the sources listed on this assignment handout, may be consulted for this assignment.

- Read each novel.** As you read, pay attention to the reading focus explained in each reading assignment below.
- Complete the attached charts.** Follow the instructions in each reading assignment (below) to complete the attached theme charts. **NO OUTSIDE SOURCES MAY BE CONSULTED**, as mentioned in the assignment instructions.

Questions?

English 9 Summer Reading Contact: Mr. Crowley (mark.crowley@jp2hs.org)

Animal Farm reading assignment Orwell's Allegory

animals is supposed to mirror the behavior of certain types of humans (or even specific historical figures) and how they act in similar circumstances in human history.

Reading *Animal Farm* as an allegory, I want you to think about what Orwell intended certain characters or species of animals in the novel to represent to the reader. As you read, **fill out the chart** that has been provided. I have provided an example to get you started. **This chart will provide you with the evidence you need for (1) our in-class discussion of *Animal Farm* and (2) your first writing assignment on the novel.**

Note: No sources other than the novel are allowed on this or any other writing assignment in my class. I have access to SparkNotes and other such resources too, and ANY plagiarism will result in a zero on the assignment and a violation of the JPII Honor Code.

The novel *Animal Farm* is an allegory, or a story in which the characters and events are symbols that stand for ideas about human life or for a political or historical situation. The animals on the farm are meant to represent types of humans. The behavior of certain individual animals or species of

Night reading assignment

Wiesel's Themes

Several key themes continue to show up at important moments in the novel *Night*. These major themes shape the reader's understanding of what Elie Wiesel is trying to accomplish in telling the story of his experiences during the Holocaust in this way.

Below, I have identified **six key theme topics** that I want you to be on the lookout for while you read the novel. There are numerous examples of each theme in the novel; **identify the THREE most powerful and/or interesting examples of each theme you encounter in the book and complete the attached chart.** The completed chart will provide you with the evidence you need for both our in-class discussion of *Night* and for your first writing assignment on the novel.

Theme #1 - Humans' Inhumanity/Cruelty Towards Other Humans

Both governments and individuals act cruelly towards individuals and groups of people throughout the story.

Theme #2 – Different Reactions to Injustice and Cruelty

Willful ignorance – choosing to ignore or disbelieve what one finds painful or unpleasant

Silence vs. resistance – submissive acceptance of oppression vs. speaking out and fighting for one's rights

The victims of this cruelty often do not comfort and support each other in their suffering, but they turn on one another. Cruelty only begets more cruelty.

Theme #3 – Loss of Humanity/Identity Under Extreme Circumstances

The victims in the story often lose their sense of themselves as unique individuals during the course of their suffering.

The victims also turn towards animal instincts in moments of extreme desperation or suffering, when self-preservation is all they are thinking about.

Theme #4 – Family Bonds (especially father-son bonds) Under Pressure

The victims in the novel see their families torn apart by the Nazis.

These familial relationships sometimes lift up the victims during the story, giving them strength to persevere through great suffering.

The Jews in the story sometimes disregard their previous values about family at times of especially great suffering.

Theme #5 – Questioning one's Faith/Loss of Faith Under Extreme Circumstances

It is hard for someone to maintain their faith in an all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-loving God when there is so much darkness and evil in the world that could seemingly be prevented by such a God.

Theme #6 – Silence & Darkness/Night

These two images are used both literally and metaphorically at critical moments throughout the novel.

The first act of God in the Bible is to create light and dispel the darkness. Darkness symbolizes a world without God, and this image occurs when human suffering is at its worst in the novel.

The world of the concentration camp is dark and quiet, the survivors have a hard time speaking up for themselves throughout the story, and the outside world is blind to the suffering of the victims

Night Chart

Theme	Evidence: Example/instance of that theme occurring in the novel	Citation: Page number(s)
1 - Humans' Inhumanity/ Cruelty Towards Other Humans	Example #1 – Example #2 – Example #3-	
2 - Different reactions to Injustice and Cruelty	Example #1 – Example #2 – Example #3-	
3 - Loss of Humanity/ Identity Under Extreme Circumstances	Example #1 – Example #2 – Example #3-	