



Getting to Know the Man behind the Words

Making the Connection: *Night* Pre-Reading Activity

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| <p>1. Read this poem</p> <p><u>"On Wiesel's Night"</u></p> | <p>2. Take a minute to reflect on the poem and think about these questions: <i>What's going on here? Who is the speaker? Who are they? Why do you think the speaker feels the way he/she does?</i> In the space below, write your response to the poem.</p> | |
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| <p>3. In 2000, Oprah Winfrey interviewed Elie Wiesel. Read the transcript of their interview here.</p> <p>While you're reading, keep track of your thoughts in the chart at right. List at least 3 important ideas and 3 interesting ideas.</p> | <p>What's Important?</p> | <p>What's Interesting?</p> |
| <p>At the end of the interview, Wiesel says,</p> <p>"I have no doubt that...</p> <p>...we are here for a purpose</p> <p>...the purpose is not only bringing God closer to his creations, but to bring his creatures close to one another</p> <p>...a human being is human simply because he or she is human and we have no right to say that a poor person, because he or she is poor, is less valid to society than the person who is rich</p> <p>...education is good for the soul. Not only for the mind.</p> <p>...questions have their own magic, their own charm and their own immortality</p> <p>...faith is only pure when it does not negate the faith of the other</p> <p>...evil can be fought</p> <p>...indifference is no option</p> <p>...that fanaticism is dangerous</p> <p>...of all the books in the world on life...the life of one person weighs more than them all."</p> | | <p>4. Choose one of the statements at left and explain what it means to you today. How do Weisel's beliefs still hold value in our world?</p> |



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5. Now, watch this [10-minute video clip](#) in which Elie Wiesel returns to Auschwitz with Oprah and speaks about his experiences. As you watch, keep track of any questions, comments, or connections you can make to the video and any predictions you would like to make about the book we will be reading. You may wish to jot your notes on scrap paper while you watch, but transcribe them here before completing the next step in this assignment.

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| Questions | Comments |
| Connections | Predictions |

6. Review everything you've written above and think about the different texts you've read and viewed. What stands out to you? Discuss these ideas with your group and work together to complete the final stage of the assignment according to the instructions presented in class.

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