Night Study Guide

Chapter 1, Part A

1. _____________________________ is the name of Eliezer’s town.

2. List the six members of Elie’s family.

3. How does Eliezer’s father disappoint Eliezer?

4. Moche the Beadle tells Eliezer: “Man questions God and God answers. But we don’t understand his answers.... I pray to the God within me that He will give me the strength to ask him the right questions.... There are a thousand and one gates leading into the orchard of truth. Every human being has his own gate. We must never make the mistake of wanting to enter the orchard by any gate but our own.” Explain why Eliezer goes to Moche the Beadle.

5. Why was Moche the Beadle expelled by the Hungarian Police?

6. List three of the horrors Moche witnessed.

7. Why was Moche able to escape?

8. How do Eliezer and the other Jews of the town react to Moche’s stories?
9. In the spring of 1944 the Jews of Sighet hear about how the Russians are defeating the Germans. Spring is always a time of ___________________ or a symbol of ___________________.

10. The Jews of Sighet say about Hitler, “Was he going to wipe out a whole people? Could he exterminate a population scattered throughout so many countries? So many millions! What methods could he use? And in the middle of the twentieth century!” Explain how the Jews of Sighet react to the threat from Hitler.

11. Elie suggests to his father that they emigrate to Palestine. What reason does his father give to stay in Hungary?

12. Once the German troops enter Hungary, what bad news comes from Budapest about treatment of the Jews?

Chapter 1, Part B

1. Give two reasons the Jews gave to pretend to remain hopeful even after the German soldiers arrived in their town.

2. Wiesel writes, “The Germans were already in the town, the Fascists were already in power, the verdict had already been pronounced, yet the Jews of Sighet continued to smile.” This literary technique, pointing out the Jews’ opposite reaction to the threat facing them, is called ___________________.

3. The Germans change the Jews’ lives bit by bit, day by day. Put these decrees in the proper order:
   ____ all Jews must wear a yellow star
   ____ Jews are not allowed to leave their houses
   ____ Jews can no longer go to restaurants
   ____ the synagogues are closed
   ____ the leaders of the Jewish community are arrested
   ____ Jews can no longer keep gold or jewels
   ____ all Jews had to move into a ghetto

4. Wiesel writes, “It was neither German nor Jew who ruled the ghetto—it was illusion.” This literary technique of making something that is not human seem to do something human, like an illusion ruling over others, is called ___________________.

5. Eliezer’s father, Cholom Wiesel, announces to the family that they are going to be deported, probably to work in factories somewhere in Hungary. But then the family has two chances to escape. What are they?

6. Eliezer watches his fellow townspeople with these words, “They were by, fallen, dragging their packs, dragging their lives, deserting their homes, the years of their childhood, cringing like beaten dogs.” What poetic technique is used in the last three words in this quotation?

7. Describe Eliezer’s feelings toward the Hungarian police. [Remember, these are Hungarians, his fellow countrymen, not the German Nazis.]

8. Why do Eliezer and his older sisters not take the opportunity to escape?

9. Wiesel writes, “The town seemed deserted. Yet our friends of yesterday were probably waiting behind their shutters for the moment when they could pillage our houses.” What is your own opinion of Eliezer’s Christian neighbors in Sighet?

10. Summarize the conditions in the cattle cars making up the train to take the Jews away.