**Instructions: Read this literary criticism silently in class. As you read:**

* **CIRCLE all words that you DO NOT know the meaning of.**
* **Double underline the THESIS (the sentence that sets up what the rest of the piece is going to be about).**
* **Write a brief 1-2 sentence summary after EACH paragraph.**
* **Underline every time the author uses quotes from the book, then out to the side briefly write what point the author is trying to support by using the quotes.**

**You WILL TURN THIS IN at the end of class, FOR A GRADE!!!**

**Literary Analysis of Night by Hunter Ashton**

The secrets and desires of a man's heart know the depths of ecstasy and anguish that can be inflicted by one or many people. Women can shred the soul of a man with one word. A mother can heal a wound and caress the spirit with her encouraging words and loving kisses. What truly motivates the heart of a man or woman to desire love? Power? Recognition? The core of a person wants to be recognized, respected, for who they are and what they have accomplished. This need to be accepted has caused many a man to improve the world in kindness towards humanity, while others have caused regrettable tragedy and heartache for people. But some, however, exceed the line of a forgivable "mistake". The drive to improve humanity has become the force of controlling humanity, even eliminating civilizations "for the sake of humanity." These are the men who seek to become like a god on earth. Elie Wiesel the author of Night was only one among millions who became a victim of the Holocaust. The Holocaust has come and gone, leaving a deep scar of remorse and hatred through generations of people, but is it truly over? Years after World War II, Night is still relevant.

Man is a constant in ever changing societies in the world: he is seen as nothing more than a pawn upon a chessboard. The "great and mighty" lead and everyone follows. Sometimes man follows and does not know why. Other times he follows, knowing what is to be his destination, and cares not what happens to him or anybody else. Some fight the injustice, but their voices drown in a tide of apathetic onlookers and partakers. The injustice tends to lean towards those who are moral and righteous in their ways. In their living, they set a standard difficult to follow: holiness reveals sins and transgressions done openly and unseen. The immoral feel inadequate and inferior because of their shameless acts, so their pride guides the eventual ostracism of the honest, respectable man. As Orthodox Jews, the Torah commands a life of separation, division from those who do not uphold the Law. Being forced into ghettos and eventual[concentration camps](http://the-world-wars.helium.com/topic/7687-concentration-camps) enabled Eliezer, the main character of Night, to face the truth of religious inequality. Before entering the ghettos and the [concentration camps](http://the-world-wars.helium.com/topic/7687-concentration-camps), Eliezer was studying the Cabbala under Moshe the Beadle. However, once in the concentration camps and subjected to the harsh treatment of the Germans, Eliezer soon began to wonder, "Where is God now? Where is He? He is hanging here on this gallows

 . .." When God seemed far, so did his faith. Even though the Jews had done nothing but live a separated life, according to Hitler, this separation prevented the perfection of the Aryan race; therefore, their annihilation in those concentration camps was necessary. Now, the Diaspora has begun its return to Israel. The land of Abraham has once again become close and tangible for the Jews. However, Arabic Palestine knows no master but its own. It appears to them as if invaders have come to take their land: the land they thought was theirs, but had only acquired through questionable methods. The declared goal of Palestine is not to live in peace with the Jews, but to completely push them into the depths of the Mediterranean. Currently, there is only guerilla warfare from Palestine, but it will not be much longer before another Jewish genocide is on the hands of the world.

Respect is given to the considerate, the wise. But there are those who seek to gain respect without first becoming worthy of it. They often step on others and use them to gain an advantage. The respect of one person can mean the world to a man, but to another man only the respect from the world is acceptable. The man who wants the world will do most anything to gain the world. The concentration camps were, in a sense, Hitler's respect. His power meant suppression. In Night Eliezer gives the reader a clear picture of "camp life": constant hunger, crowded rooms, beds of board, and terrible beatings. In one instance, Eliezer has a gold tooth removed with a rusty spoon in a lavatory to save his father's life. These incidents happened because Hitler promised the German supremacy. Easily oppressable and unfortunately acquiescing, the Jews became simple candidates for Hitler's "respect." In this manner, the German people respected Hitler for his "advancement" in the perfection of their race. However, the Jews are not silently letting the Palestinians terrorize the Jewish people. The Israeli Defense Forces are putting a stop to violence by the terrorist factions, but the world is pressuring Israel to give into their demands. The Road Map to Peace is requiring the Jews to give away their holy land to appease the Palestinians. The League of Nations appeased Hitler by giving him Poland, which only fueled his hunger for more power and respect. Giving land to Palestine will not halt their yearning for more land and power, it will only increase it at an alarming rate.
There is but one race of people on earth who have lived through centuries of "holocausts," and yet, by the grace of God, have not become extinct in their culture and faith. As creation emerged brilliantly into existence was narrated by men long ago, so the saga of the countless destitutions experienced by the Jews have also been chronicled in history. The story is not over, but will continue to the end. The memoirs of Elie Wiesel have recorded the cruelty of humans that have and will continue to be. As Martin Luther King so eloquently quoted, "I have a dream," so also does the common man: a dream of betterment and respect for who and what they are and have done. The day that Night is irrelevant for humanity is the day the world has become the perfect Utopian society.