

Name:

### Dialectical Journal

**Instructions:** As you read through the memoir, *Night*, you will select at least two meaningful quotations from each chapter to for dialectical journal entries (9 chapters = 18 entries). See “Instructions for Dialectical Journal” for more information.

**In the first column:** Write down a direct quote from the text that is meaningful.

**In the second column:** Cite the page the quote is from.

**In the third column:** Write your response to the text (ideas/insights, questions, reflections, analysis, and comments on each passage) and label your response with a code. See “Instructions for Dialectical Journal” for a list of sample codes.

I'm using a [different](#) PDF.

Passage From the Text	Page Number	Response
Chapter 1: "One day, as I was about to enter the synagogue, I saw Moishe the Beadle sitting on a bench near the entrance. He told me what had happened to him and his companions. The train with the deportees... Without passion or haste, they shot their prisoners, who were forced to approach the trench one by one and offer their necks. Infants were tossed into the air and used as targets for the machine guns." (6)	6	(CH) As the reader, I can see the author depicting the SS as very cruel and heartless people - people with no sense of morality. (R) It's kind of sad that so many people died to these people, it's an extremely gruesome and inhumane thing to do. (L) In the passage, we can see Wiesel use imagery to give us readers a vivid description on how the SS would slaughter the Jews. (P) The author cleverly foreshadows what will happen to himself only a year later. (M) This also sets a very scary, dark mood.
Chapter 1: "The synagogue resembled a large railroad station: baggage and tears. The altar was shattered, the wall coverings shredded, the walls themselves bare. There were so many of us, we could hardly breathe. The twenty-four hours we spent there were horrendous. The men were downstairs, the women upstairs. It was Saturday - the Sabbath - and it was as though we were there to attend services." (22)	22	(L) There are multiple literary devices used here. Symbolism is used, the altar represents their current state, and also foreshadows what is going to happen to them in the next chapters. Wiesel also uses a simile when he says "and it was as though we were there to attend services" (M) This also sets a very gloomy, dark mood.
Chapter 2: "There was a moment of panic. Who had screamed? It was Mrs. Schachter. Standing in the middle of the car, in the faint light filtering through the windows, she looked like a withered tree in a field of wheat... 'Look! Look at this fire! This terrible fire! Have mercy on me!'" (25)	25	(L) In this short quote, there is a lot of symbolism. The fire represents the crematorium/mass fire grave that most of the people will die in. On the next page, "Once again, the young men bound and gagged her... lethal blows" this can symbolize the force that the SS had, they could silence anyone by basically killing them. Not only is there symbolism, but Mrs. Schachter is also foreshadowing death that will come to them. (M) This sets a very dark, deathly mood. (P) We can predict that something very bad is coming up.
Chapter 2: "Around eleven o'clock, the train began to move again. We pressed against the windows. The convoy was rolling slowly. A quarter of an hour later, it began to slow down even more. Through the windows, we saw barbed wire; we understood that this was the camp... We jumped out. I glanced at Mrs. Schachter. Her little boy was still holding her hand. (28)	28	(R) I think the part where Wiesel says "her little boy was still holding her hand" is an extremely good way of portraying how the Jews were all extremely scared, but they just had to continue. They were living in constant danger, they could be killed for whatever reason the SS thought was valid. This also shows the amount of power the SS had. (L) The author uses imagery so us as readers can visualize what is going on.
Chapter 3: "'Men to the left! Women to the right!' Eight words spoken quietly, indifferently, without emotion. Eight simple, short words. Yet that was the moment when I left my mother. There was no time to think, and I already felt my father's hand press against mine: we were alone" (29)	29	(C) This kind of shows the reality of the world - survival of the fittest. (R) It's sad to know that this happened to all the Jews, it amazes me that not a lot of people stood up for the Jews. (P) This can foreshadow his father's death, as in the forward it mentions his father's death because he was extremely weak and fragile at that time. (CH) This also depicts the SS as an extremely evil, greedy group.

<p>Chapter 3:</p> <p>"Never shall I forget that smoke. Never shall I forget the small faces of the children whose bodies I saw transformed into smoke under a silent sky. Never shall I forget those flames that consumed by faith forever. Never shall I forget the nocturnal silence that deprived me for all eternity of the desire to live. Never shall I forget those moments that murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to ashes. Never shall I forget those things, even were I condemned to live as long as God Himself.</p>	<p>34</p>	<p>(L) The author uses effectively uses repetition to put a lot of emphasis on how the Holocaust has changed his life (R) Personally I think if a person saw all of this, they had to be changed. They might even go insane because of all this trauma. (CH) The reader can infer that the author is forever scarred by these incidents, and we can (P) predict that he might be a very isolated and quiet person.</p>
<p>Chapter 4:</p> <p>"'A-7713?' 'Thats me' 'After your meal, you'll go to the dentist'... It didn't take long to learn the real reason for our summons: our gold teeth were to be extracted."</p>	<p>51</p>	<p>(CH) This depicts the SS as a greedy group of people. It also shows that to them, the Jews were just a number, a simple ID without meaning. (R) They treated them as basically data - data without meaning. It must be really sad and depressing to go through all of this treatment.</p>
<p>Chapter 4:</p> <p>"'Bite your lips, little brother... Don't cry. Keep your anger, your hate, for another day, for later. The day will come but not now... Wait. Clench your teeth and wait...' Many Years later, in Paris, I sat in the Metro, reading my news-paper. Across the aisle, a beautiful woman with dark hair and dreamy eyes. I had seen those eyes before.</p>	<p>53</p>	<p>(L) The author uses the literary device flash forwarding effectively. He manages to (CH) characterize the SS as a group that doesn't care about the individual Jews, and shows how helpless the Jews were during the Holocaust.</p>
<p>Chapter 5:</p> <p>"Why, but why would I bless Him? Every fiber in me rebelled. Because He caused thousands of children oti burn in His mass graves? Because He kept six crematoria working day and night, including Sabbath and the Holy Days? Because in His great might, He had created Auschwitz, Birkenau, Buna, and so many other factories of death?"</p>	<p>67</p>	<p>(R) I think I can understand the author's thought logic here. Why would God sacrifice and kill so many people? Why would he allow for this to happen? I can understand why he might've lost his faith during those times. (L) The author also uses repetition, he always keeps saying "Because...", and is trying to put emphasis on what has happened.</p>
<p>Chapter 5:</p> <p>"'Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you.' For the first time, his voice quivered. 'In a few moments, selection will take place. You will have to undress completely. Then you will go, one by one, before the SS doctors. I hope you will all pass. But you must try to increase your chances. Before you go into the next room, try to move your limbs, give yourself some color. Don't look at the SS. Run, straight in front of you!'" (71)</p>	<p>71</p>	<p>(R) This is kind of sad, it's basically survival of the fittest. (P) We can predict that the weak and old people will most likely die later on in the story. (CH) We can see here that even the leader is scared, that maybe not all the people who were in the SS are evil. They maybe didn't like doing what they did but they were forced to, just like the Jews.</p>
<p>Chapter 6:</p> <p>"I don't believe that he was finished off by an SS, for nobody had noticed. He must have died, trampled under the feet of thousands of men who followed us. I soon forgot him. I began to think of myself again. My foot was aching. I shivered with every small step. Just a few more meters and it will be over. I'll fall. A small red flame... A shot... Death enveloped me, it suffocated me." (86)</p>	<p>86</p>	<p>(R) To the SS, one death would not matter. They wouldn't care if one died. (T) This shows the theme of cruelty, and how inhumane the SS were. (M) I think this sets a very tense and gloomy mood. (P) The author brings this part up as to maybe foreshadow the upcoming event, the author may be foreshadowing more death</p>

<p>Chapter 6:</p> <p>"I could not answer him. Someone had lain down on top of me, smothering me. I couldn't breathe through my mouth or my nose. Sweat was running down my forehead and my back. This was it; the end of the road. A silent death, suffocation. No way to scream, to call for help. I tried to rid myself of my invisible assassin. My whole desire to live became concentrated in my nails. I scratched, I fought for a breath of air." (94)</p>	<p>94</p>	<p>(R) If you think about it, this sort of represents what they are going through constantly, they are constantly at the point between life and death. (M) It sets a very tense mood, will the author really die here? (P) The author mentions a lot of death in this chapter, which also could foreshadow more death in the following chapter.</p>
<p>Chapter 7:</p> <p>"Mier, my little Mier!" Don't you recognize me... You're killing your father... I have bread... for you too... for you too... ' He collapsed. But his fist was still clutching a small crust. He wanted to raise it to his mouth. But the other threw himself on him. The old man mumbled something, groaned, and died. No-body cared. His son searched him, took the crust of bread, and began to devour it." (101)</p>	<p>101</p>	<p>(R) I find this personally horrifying, that someone's son would kill their father just for a piece of bread. I don't think I could do that under those harsh circumstances either. But I can see why it happens, everyone is fighting just to survive. (M) This sets a very dark and gloomy tone. (T) This brings more emphasis to the theme of how inhumane the SS were.</p>
<p>Chapter 7:</p> <p>"Suddenly, a cry rose in the wagon, the cry of a wounded animal. Someone had just died. Others, close to death, imitated his cry. And their cries seemed to come from beyond the grave. Soon everybody was crying. Groaning. Moaning. Cries of distress hurled into the wind and the snow. The lament spread from wagon to wagon. It was contagious. And now hundreds of cries rose at once. The death rattle of an entire convoy with the end approaching. All boundaries had been crossed. Nobody had any strength left. And the night seemed endless." (103)</p>	<p>103</p>	<p>(M) The author sets a very dark and depressing mood, and makes it seem like all hope has been lost. (R) At this point everyone has basically lost hope, I could also see and understand why. It's very sad to see people being treated like this, like they are basically treated like wild animals. (T) This also brings more emphasis to how inhuman the SS were.</p>
<p>Chapter 8:</p> <p>"When I woke up, it was daylight. That is when I remembered that I had a father. During the alert, I had followed the mob, not taking care of him. I knew he was running out of strength, close to death, and yet I had abandoned him. I went to look for him. Yet at the same time a thought crept into my mind: If only I didn't find him! If only I were relieved of this responsibility, I could use all my strength to fight for my own survival, to take care only of myself..." (106)</p>	<p>106</p>	<p>(CH) We can see that the author is becoming selfish, he's getting thoughts about leaving his father and letting him die. (R) I personally think that this is a really hard situation to be in, like would you choose your own survival and deal with the guilt for the rest of your life? Or would you stick with your father just for a little longer before you die? (M) This sets a very scary mood.</p>
<p>Chapter 8:</p> <p>"The officer came closer and shouted to him to be silent. But my father did not hear. He continued to call me. The officer wielded his club and dealt him a violent blow to the head. I didn't move. I was afraid, my body was afraid of another blow, this time to my head" (111)</p>	<p>111</p>	<p>(T) This really brings the theme of the father-son bond. It's basically somewhat the end of the story for the father, he is too sick to go and the son cannot do anything about it. (M) This sets a really dark and gloomy mood. (R) And I think for anyone to have to see their own father being beat up is terrible.</p>
<p>Chapter 9:</p> <p>"I remained in Buchenwald until April 11. I shall not describe my life during that period. It no longer mattered. Since my father's death, nothing mattered to me anymore." (113)</p>	<p>113</p>	<p>(R) Right after his fathers death, the author is very sad. I think a lot of people might have done the same, if your father or any loved one died and you could do nothing about it, it will certainly make you have survivors guilt. (M) This sets a very dark and gloomy mood.</p>

<p>Chapter 9:</p> <p>"Our first act as free men was to throw ourselves onto the provisions. That's all we thought about. No thought of revenge, or of parents. Only bread. And even when we were no longer hungry, not one of us thought of revenge... But still no trace of revenge. (115)</p>	115	<p>(R) It's sad to think that after all the suffering, all they needed was basic living essentials. This makes me appreciate the present right now, that I didn't have to go through all of that torture. (M) This sets a sad but resolving mood, that everything should be ok.</p>
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