

Foreshadowing: A Closer Look at Madame Schächter

Foreshadowing is the use of clues to suggest or hint at events that have not yet occurred. In Section 2 of the novel, an older lady, Madame Schächter, and her young son are separated from the rest of their family and forced to travel by cattle car to what they are told is a work camp.

Directions: Using the chart below, identify as many incidents of foreshadowing as possible, and speculate on what events are yet to come.

<i>Event</i>	<i>Foreshadows what?</i>
“We realized then that we were not going to stay in Hungary. Our eyes were opened, but too late.”	
“Fire! I can see fire! I can see fire!”	
“As she continued to scream, they began to hit her again, and it was with the greatest difficulty that they silenced her.”	
“In front of us flames. In the air that smell of burning flesh.”	

Ethics: Evaluating Elie's Beliefs

Ethics are the values or beliefs by which we live and make decisions every day. They are our sense of right and wrong, of what actions are commonly accepted and what are not. Consider Pastor Martin Niemoller's words when speaking of the Holocaust:

In Germany they first came for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me — and by that time no one was left to speak up.

What beliefs does Elie have? Through his eyes, we get to see the reality of what happened in the dark days of the Holocaust.

Directions: Based on the quotations below, determine what you believe to be Elie's beliefs and values.

Quotation	Elie's Beliefs
"I continued to devote myself to my studies. By day, the Talmud, at night, the cabbala."	
" 'Faster! Faster! Get on with you, lazy swine!' yelled the Hungarian police. It was in that moment that I began to hate them..."	
"Her little boy was crying, hanging on to her skirt, trying to take hold of her hands... This shook me even more than his mother's screams had done."	
"One by one they passed in front of me... They went by, fallen, dragging their packs, dragging their lives... They passed without a glance in my direction. They must have envied me."	