

Section 7  
Handout 1

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_

## ***A Novel With Many Themes***

A theme is a central message or insight into life revealed through a literary work. It is a general statement about people or life in general. There are many themes within the novel *Night* about which the author makes general statements.

**Directions:** Complete the chart below by giving examples from the text to support the themes listed on the left. After giving examples to support the theme, write what you think may be an important “insight” about people or life in general.

| <i><b>Theme</b></i> | <i><b>Examples from the Novel</b></i> | <i><b>Insight</b></i> |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| LIFE                |                                       |                       |
| MANKIND             |                                       |                       |
| COMPASSION          |                                       |                       |
| FAITH               |                                       |                       |

## The Plot Revisited: A Snapshot of Images

Just as a camera captures images through its lens, the novel *Night* is composed of a series of “snapshots” that allows the reader to see the experiences of Elie in his struggle to stay alive in the death camps. The author at times gives us the frame of an event but not the entire picture so that the reader must use his imagination to fill in the missing images. At other times the author retells the experiences in shocking detail, making us question how anyone could survive in such an inhumane environment.

**Directions:** Read the “snapshot” experiences below and underline examples of vivid imagery and wording.

“He collapsed. His fist still clenched around a small piece. He tried to carry it to his mouth. But the other one threw himself upon him and snatched it. The old man again whispered something, let out a rattle, and died amid the general indifference. His son searched him, took the bread and began to devour it. He was not able to get very far. Two men had seen and hurled themselves upon him. Others joined in. When they withdrew, next to me were two corpses, side by side, the father and the son.”



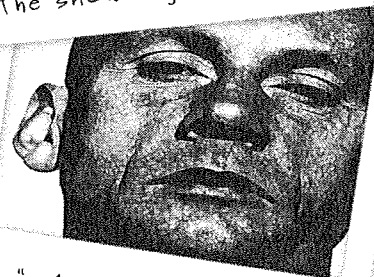
“...took the bread and began to devour it.”

“The snow began to form a thick layer over our blankets. They brought us bread — the usual ration. We threw ourselves upon it. Someone had the idea of appeasing his thirst by eating the snow. Soon the others were imitating him. As we were not allowed to bend down, everyone took a spoon and ate the accumulated snow off his neighbor’s back. A mouthful of bread and a spoonful of snow. The SS who were watching laughed at the spectacle.”



“The snow began to form...”

“The head of our tent was a German. An assassin’s face, fleshy lips, hands like a wolf’s paws. He was so fat he could hardly move.”



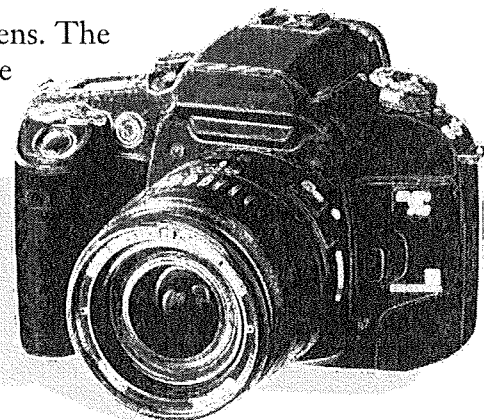
“...An assassin's face...”

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_

## Snapshot Writing

Snapshot writing is like capturing an image through a camera's lens. The novel *Night* is a series of "snapshots" that allows the reader to see the experiences of Elie in his struggle to stay alive in the death camps. The author at times gives us the frame of an event but not the entire picture so that the reader must use his imagination to fill in the missing images. At other times the author retells the experiences in shocking detail.



**Directions:** Write your own snapshot image of an event that occurred in your own life. The criteria are listed below.

**Criteria:**

1. Snapshot image should be at least one full paragraph — five sentences or more.
2. Use vivid adjectives.
3. Use action verbs.
4. Include two or more of the following figurative devices:
  - a) simile
  - b) metaphor
  - c) personification
5. Images should "capture" at least one of the five senses: sight, smell, sound, taste, or touch.

**Other Criteria:**

6. Check spelling.
7. Check sentence structure for run-ons and fragments.
8. Check for proper verb endings and subject-verb agreement.
9. Check for consistent verb tense.
10. Check for punctuation problems.