

NAME: _____ PERIOD: _____ DATE: _____

A CLOSE READING OF ELIE WIESEL'S NOBEL PEACE PRIZE ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

To complete your close reading, respond to the following and determine your own thoughts as a result.

I. First Impressions

- What is the first thing you notice about Elie's speech?

- What is the second thing?

- Do the two things you noticed complement each other? Or contradict each other?

- What mood does his speech create in you? Why?

II. Vocabulary and Diction

- Which words do you notice first? Why?

- How do the important words relate to one another?

- Do any words seem oddly used to you? Why?

- Look up any unfamiliar words and write their definitions here.

III. Discerning Patterns

- What is the sentence rhythm like? Short and choppy? Long and flowing? Does it build or stay even?

- Look at the punctuation. Is there anything unusual about it?

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- Is there any repetition within his speech? What is the effect of that repetition?
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- What is left out or kept silent? What would you expect Elie to talk about that was avoided?
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IV. Point of View and Characterization

- How does the speech make you react?
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- What does it make you think about?
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- Are there descriptions that appeal to the senses? Why might he have chosen that?
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- How would you describe the style?
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V. Symbolism

- Are there metaphors and/or similes? What kinds?
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- Is there any kind of symbolism mentioned? How come?
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- How might objects represent something else?
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- Does anything have traditional connotation or meaning? What about religious or biblical significance?
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VI. Final Thoughts *(Give your final thoughts as a result of your findings below.)*
