

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PERIOD: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

### THEME OF NIGHT

Students will identify, discuss, and write about themes in Elie Wiesel's *Night*.

The THEME of a story is the central message or idea. It says something about life or about being human. Theme is what makes literature compelling and significant to readers.

Theme is different from a moral (lesson). It doesn't state what people should or should not do. Instead, it says something about what it means to be alive. A moral might be as follows: look before you leap. While the theme from the same story might be as follows: people are often impulsive and hedonistic.

A TOPIC is something that can be identified as a recurring idea, feeling, event, lesson, etc. Topics are not themes – they are merely topics. However, they do connect to one another as a theme is what the story says about a topic. In order to create a theme, you need to determine what the author's message is concerning the topic.

List potential topics from *Night*:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Now that we have identified the topics within *Night*, we need to articulate what the author, Elie Wiesel, is saying about the topic to construct the thematic statement (theme).

Formula for Theme: \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

You can use the following sentence starter: Elie Wiesel's *Night* shows that... [topic and insight]

Select 5 of the topics identified in *Night* and create 5 thematic statements (theme):

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Now we must add two reasons or examples to each of the thematic statements (themes) to provide support and textual evidence for the statement. This can be done in bullet-point format.

1.

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5.

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This is due at the beginning of the class on **Thursday, March 21, 2019.**