

Lesson Title: Night

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Teaching Traditional American History Program

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Mike Lair, Project Director

<http://www.chillihistoryproject.com/>

Lesson Overview: The lesson is a component of the unit literature study of *Night by Elie Wiesel*. It provides students with an opportunity to concentrate on social, historical, and political aspects of the Holocaust. This lesson covers an assortment of biographical information of the author using various resources.

Essential Question: How important are survivor testimonials like Elie Wiesel's in *Night* in preventing future Holocausts?

Objectives:

- Students will visit websites to get information to meet the criterion requirements. GLE Soc. Studies 5-8grades, 7d.
- Students will take notes, print required materials, record web addresses if needed.
- Students will use information gained to produce a brochure of Elie Wiesel's personal information. GLE Soc. Studies 5-8, 6c.

Assessment: a student generated brochure containing the following information:

1. Vital statistics
 - Name
 - Year of birth
 - Place of birth
2. Statements dealing with these experiences
 - Childhood
 - Concentration Camps experience
 - Awards
3. Pictures
 - Elie Wiesel must be in the pictures.
4. Other books written by Wiesel.

Materials: Computer with Internet access
The Book, *Night*, by Elie Wiesel
White copy paper
Word – Microsoft (brochures)

[Elie Wiesel Biography](http://www.achievement.org/autodoc/page/wie0bio-1)

[URL:http://www.achievement.org/autodoc/page/wie0bio-1](http://www.achievement.org/autodoc/page/wie0bio-1)

[Elie Wiesel Interview](http://www.achievement.org/autodoc/page/wie0int-1)

[URL:http://www.achievement.org/autodoc/page/wie0int-1](http://www.achievement.org/autodoc/page/wie0int-1)

Class Time: 2 periods approximately 50 minutes in length.

Teacher Input: Students are reading the literature set, *Night*, by Elie Wiesel. This is the introductory lesson to the literature set. Students are given a copy of the book and asked to look at the illustrated cover. It is a very bleak white background with a black figure in the foreground and barbed wire in front of him.

Q. What does this illustration suggest? **Q.** Who is the author? Tell students this is an actual account of Elie's experiences in the death camps. Upon his release from the camp, he swore he would never think about the camps or talk about the atrocities he suffered there. He did not for many years. Eventually something changed his mind and he began to make the world aware of the cruelty humans can inflict on other humans under the spell of hatred. Students will be taken to the computer lab. Once in the lab, everyone will pull up the brochure section of Word-Microsoft. A demonstration of use will be given and then two web site addresses will be given.

The scoring guide for the brochure will be handed out and students will be allowed to start researching for the references needed. They are instructed to take notes and copy web addresses that they might want to refer to later. They are given two days to complete the project.

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Activities: Student generated author brochure giving vital statistics, awards, his history, pictures, and other works as required by the scoring guide. Students use the computer and internet to research authentic and secondary sources for constructing this publication. They are familiarized with the brochure program as presented in Word-Microsoft. Students then construct an author brochure with information from notes and materials obtained from research.

Questions for review: Review the events of Elie's life. **Q.** What could have made him decide to share his experiences of the Holocaust? Answers from students will vary but will relate to information researched on the Internet and Elie's cultural background.

Closure: Each student will present his/her author brochure to the class. The brochures will be displayed on bulletin board.

References: *Night* by Elie Wiesel

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Word-Microsoft/brochures.

Scoring Guide for Author Brochure

	10pts.	5pts.	1pt.
Vital Statistics	4 elements	2 elements	1 element
Personal History	4 experiences	2 experiences	1 experience
Pictures	4 pics	2pics	1pic
Other Works	4 works	2 works	1 work
Work Practice	on time	1 day late	late