Night, ELIE WEISEL

# chapter 1 notes

* Moishe the Beadle: Poor; “Invisible.” Moishe stayed away from people, didn’t ask for anything, so people liked him. He was quiet, very religious; Studied Kabbalah- Jewish Mysticism.
* Elie wanted to study Kabbalah, his father didn’t want him to. So, Elie asked Moishe.
* Elie and Moishe read one page of the Zohar, over and over.
* One day, Moishe is just taken from Sighet (because he was a foreign Jew).
* The people of the town convinced themselves that the foreign Jews were happy working somewhere.
* The Gestapo took the foreign Jews, made them dig their own graves, threw babies as target practice, and murdered them all. Moishe escaped with a wounded leg, and came back for one reason: to warn the Jews. Moishe had changed, he was no longer religious.
* 1942 -No one in the town listened. 1) because they didn’t want to believe it to be true. 2) because he was a poor “mad” man.
* The Red Army=allies for the Jews. Hitler=bad.
* There were signs that things were going downhill, Elie asks his father to leave. His father says no, because he’s too old and doesn’t want to start over.
* In Budapest, Jews are being attacked left and right. Within a week, the Germans invaded their town.
* On the 7th day of Passover, the Jewish Community Leaders were arrested.
* These were the rules: (Death is the penalty)
  + Jews could not leave their house for 3 days.
  + Jews couldn’t own jewelry, gold, anything valuable. (Elie’s father buried their savings)
  + Jews had to wear a Yellow Star of David (So they could identify them as Jews)
  + They couldn’t go to restaurants, ride the train, attend synagogue, couldn’t be on the streets after 6:00 p.m.
* Their street became the ghetto, and they were encircled in barbed wire.
  + They were content after forming their own Jewish government
* Elie’s father had a friend in the Hungarian police department who told them he’d warn them of danger. He came the night they were to be transported and knocked on the window, but was gone before they got there. They didn’t know who it was.
* They were moved from the larger (their home) to a smaller ghetto during transport.
* The family maid offered them to join her safe house, but his dad refused.
* The optimistic people of the time were thinking that they were being moved for their own good, to get them away from the frontline of war.
* Some thought they were sending them on “vacation” to steal their valuables.
* Finally, they were moved to cattle cars.

Chapter 2:

* Mrs Schacter was on the cattle car with Elie’s family. She had a ten year old son, and she was also separated from her husband and two sons.
* She had lost her mind and began screaming “FIRE.”
* She eventually is bound and gagged by the cattle car occupants. They finally began beating her when she came loose.
* The cattle car arrives at Auschwitz.
* They group had arrived in Berkenau (a branch of Auschwitz).