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Mr. Bigelow

English 10

April 9, 2014

Night Essay

Faith is what you believe in; nothing can protect you or save you if you do not believe in faith. In Elie Wiesel’s Night, a young boy witnesses how faith can fly away from one person in just a second of time. There are thousands of questions and answers to why faith is so important in somebodies life. One answer is because faith helps you live and strive. Having no faith or very little of it can make you weak; it drains you and leaves you empty. This is significant to Wiesel because he began as a religious boy that spent most of his time around faith itself, but when he escaped the Holocaust, he was completely drained of it. This is significant to the book because it explains that faith can be lost to anyone once they see that they may have no hope.

Faith makes you seem powerful because you have something to hold onto, to make you strive over others who are weak;Elie writes, “To the last moment, people clung to hope” (15). Most of the people that were taken to the death camps wanted to live; many wanted to die because they knew what their future held. Without faith, many just gave up even if there was a slim chance that they could survive: “Not cry? We’re on the threshold of death” (36). Once everyone knew what was going to happen to them, they all started to panic. Some told others that they would make it through and that they would survive; this gave some people their hope back.

Once a person has been held captive for so long, their faith fades more and more; once that is gone, it becomes an empty soul; “My soul had been invaded- and devoured- by a black figure” (37). Once there is not anything left in a person, they change drastically from the person that used to have faith to someone that is not there anymore: “I glanced over at my father. How changed he looked! His eyes were veiled” (37). Once a person loses just about everything in them, they seem to be as if they were mentally handicapped. Faith during the Holocaust was what kept someone standing and sane.

God is the most believed being in the world; the Holocaust was one of the biggest times where God had lost so many believers during one time. God was a big figure; many people believed that He was just testing them to see what they would do; others wondered where he was. Over time, most of them stopped having faith in him: “Why should I sanctify His name? The Almighty, the eternal and terrible Master of the Universe chose to be silent. What was there to thank Him for?” (33). It seemed to many people that God had left them; He chose to be silent against their suffering. They asked why He had done this to them. Why had He made them suffer when they had not done anything wrong? There were many questions and the most common one was: “Where is merciful God, where is He?” the answer that many gave was that He was gone (64),; He had left them to suffer. Faith was lost forever for them.

Faith makes a person strive; it allows her to be powerful and free to do what she wants as long as she believes. Many people lost faith in the Holocaust; Elie was one of them. People wanted faith because they knew that others lived because they believed that they could make it out. The people that lost everything and did not have faith were drained; they were an empty soul. In Elie Wiesel’s Night, Faith not only meant that you could live, it helped to give power to the Great Powers to attack the Allied Forces because they believed that they could win and in the end they freed many lucky people from the camps.

Shine: good focus (claim), great intro,

Goals:

1. Topic sentences/integrating quotes (keep separate)
2. No new information in conclusion
3. Avoid second person (you)
4. Stay true to claim

Score: 9/9=A