

Night

By Elie Wiesel

Chapters 4-5 Vocabulary

1. cynical

believing the worst of human nature and motives

*Juliek, a Pole with eyeglasses and a **cynical** smile in a pale face.*

2. sanctity

the quality of being holy

*And so we would sometimes hum melodies evoking the gentle waters of the Jordan River and the majestic **sanctity** of Jerusalem.*

3. mournful

expressing sorrow

*She was smiling her **mournful** smile as she slipped me a crust of bread.*

4. reminisce

recall the past

*We left the Metro together and sat down at a cafe terrace. We spent the whole evening **reminiscing**.*

5. wrath

intense anger, usually on an epic scale

*Why couldn't he have avoided Idek's **wrath**?*

6. sufficient

of a quantity that can fulfill a need or requirement

*But my father did not make **sufficient** progress, and the blows continued to rain on him.*

7. refuge

a shelter from danger or hardship

*Blockalteste gathered us inside the blocks, while the SS took **refuge** in the shelters.*

8. devour

destroy completely

*Jealousy **devoured** us, consumed us.*

9. writhe

to move in a twisting or contorted motion

*Falling to the ground, his face stained by the soup, the man **writhed** a few seconds at the base of the cauldron, and then he was still.*

10. manacle

shackle that can be locked around the wrist

11. grandeur

the quality of being magnificent or splendid or grand

*What does Your **grandeur** mean, Master of the Universe, in the face of all this cowardice, this decay, and this misery?*

12. reprieve

a relief from harm or discomfort

*Then we would know the verdict: death or **reprieve**.*

13. notorious

known widely and usually unfavorably

*Three SS officers surrounded the **notorious** Dr. Mengele, the very same who had received us in Birkenau.*

14. emaciated

very thin especially from disease or hunger or cold

*A poor **emaciated** Jew questioned him anxiously, his voice trembling*

15. wallow

devote oneself entirely to something

*I'm telling you, once and for all: nothing will happen to you! Nothing! You just like to **wallow** in your despair, you fools!*

16. crucible

a vessel used for high temperature chemical reactions

*All that mattered was to be far from the block, far from the **crucible** of death, from the center of hell.*

17. sage

a mentor in spiritual and philosophical topics

*But what can someone like myself do? I'm neither a **sage** nor a just man. I am not a saint. I'm a simple creature of flesh and bone.*

18. delude

be dishonest with

*My faceless neighbor spoke up: "Don't be **deluded**. Hitler has made it clear that he will annihilate all Jews before the clock strikes twelve."*

19. ghetto

a poor densely populated city district

*The last night at home, the last night in the **ghetto**, the last night in the cattle car, and, now, the last night in Buna.*

20. exodus

a journey by a group to escape from a hostile environment

*We had to await the **exodus** of the fifty-six blocks that preceded us.*