



NIGHT

BY ELIE WIESEL



QUICKWRITES

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Instructions



- Write “Quickwrites” at the top of the page.
- Draw a line halfway down by the hole, splitting your page in two.
- You have 5 minutes to write $\frac{1}{2}$ a page.
- I’ll collect them when we’ve filled up a single sheet with 4 Quickwrites.
- Full credit will be earned for $\frac{1}{2}$ a page of serious thoughts on the subject.



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Mentor



Eliezer finds Moishe the Beadle to be his older mentor. Have you ever had an older man or woman besides your parents to be a kind of mentor for you? What was it like? If you haven't had a mentor, what do you think it would be like? Who could it be? How might they help you?



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Prayer



When Eliezer asks Moishe why he prays, he answers that he prays for God to give him the right questions to ask him. What do you think about his prayer? Why do you think he chooses to pray this? How is it a good prayer? How might it be incomplete?



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Yellow Star



When the Nazis start making the Jews wear the yellow stars, Schlomo says, “What of it? You don’t die of it.” What do you think of his thoughts? Is death the worst thing that could happen? Why is Eliezer’s father saying this?



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Deportation

It can be tempting to think that if the Nazis tried to deport us we would just run away. But what if you didn't know about the death camps and you only knew that you were going to work in a factory? Would you go then? With your whole family? How would your feelings be different then than they are now after knowing all that was going to happen?



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Police



When the Hungarian police order the Jews to leave the ghetto, Jewish police are present also, telling them, “The time has come.” What do you think about those Jewish police? Would you be angry at them? Thankful? How would you feel if you were part of the Jewish police?



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3 Things



If you had to leave your home and could only bring three things, what would they be? Why? How would you feel about getting to take them with you? How would you feel about all the things left behind?



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Beds



After the ghetto is cleared out, there are a lot of empty houses and empty beds. How would you feel sleeping in one of the beds left empty after its owner had been relocated?



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Schachter



When the Jews are riding in the cattle car, why do you think Madame Schachter starts screaming about a fire in the window? What is the huge fire that is going to devour them all? How would you feel for her to be screaming these things? What would you think about her?



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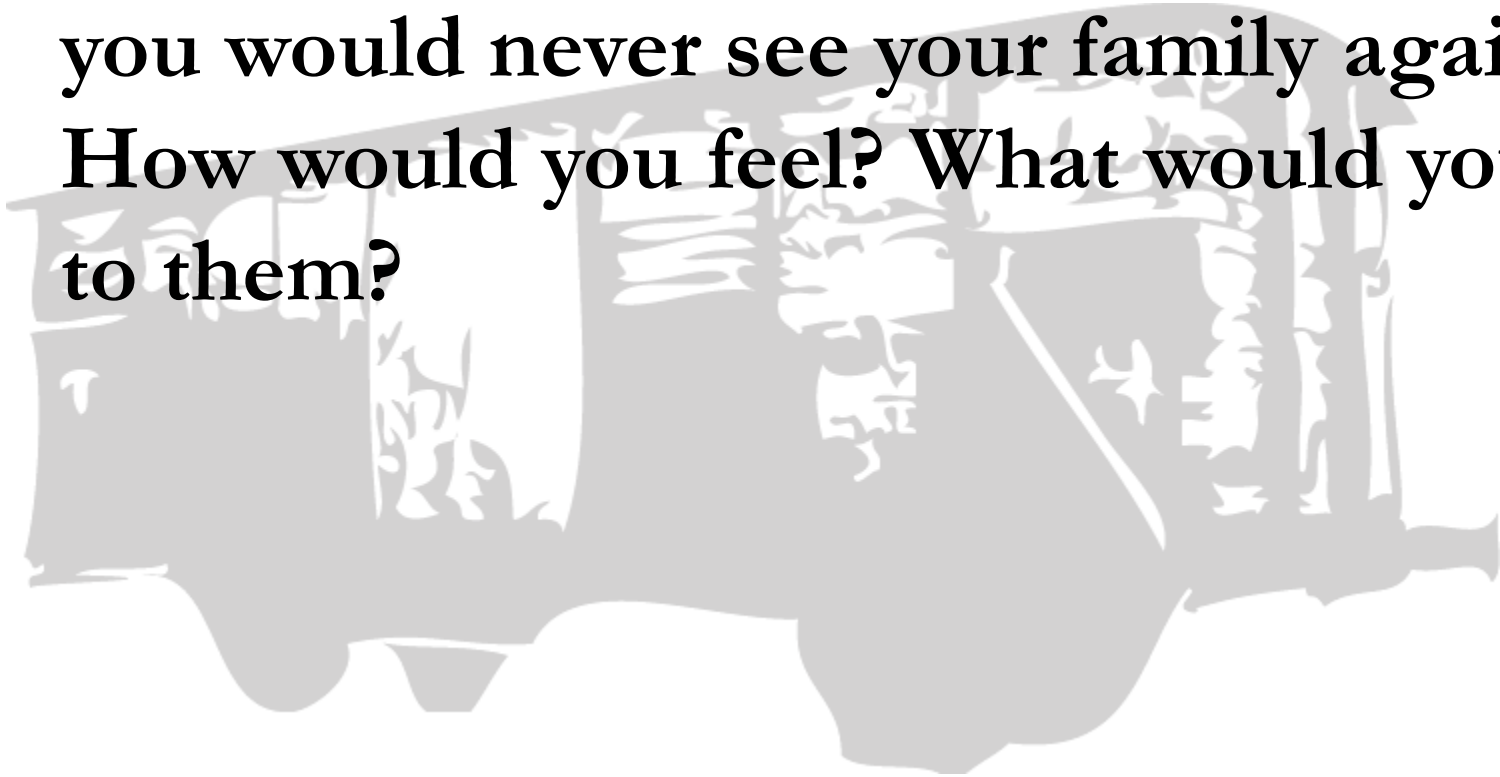
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Family



When the cattle car arrives at Birkenau, Eliezer comments that this will be the last time he sees his family. What if you knew you would never see your family again? How would you feel? What would you say to them?





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Silent



“How could it be possible for them to be burning people - children - and for the world to keep silent?” This is a great question, an important question. How is it possible for tragedies like this to happen around the world every year and for the world to remain silent and not do anything? Why do you think the world doesn't do anything? Why do you think you don't do anything?



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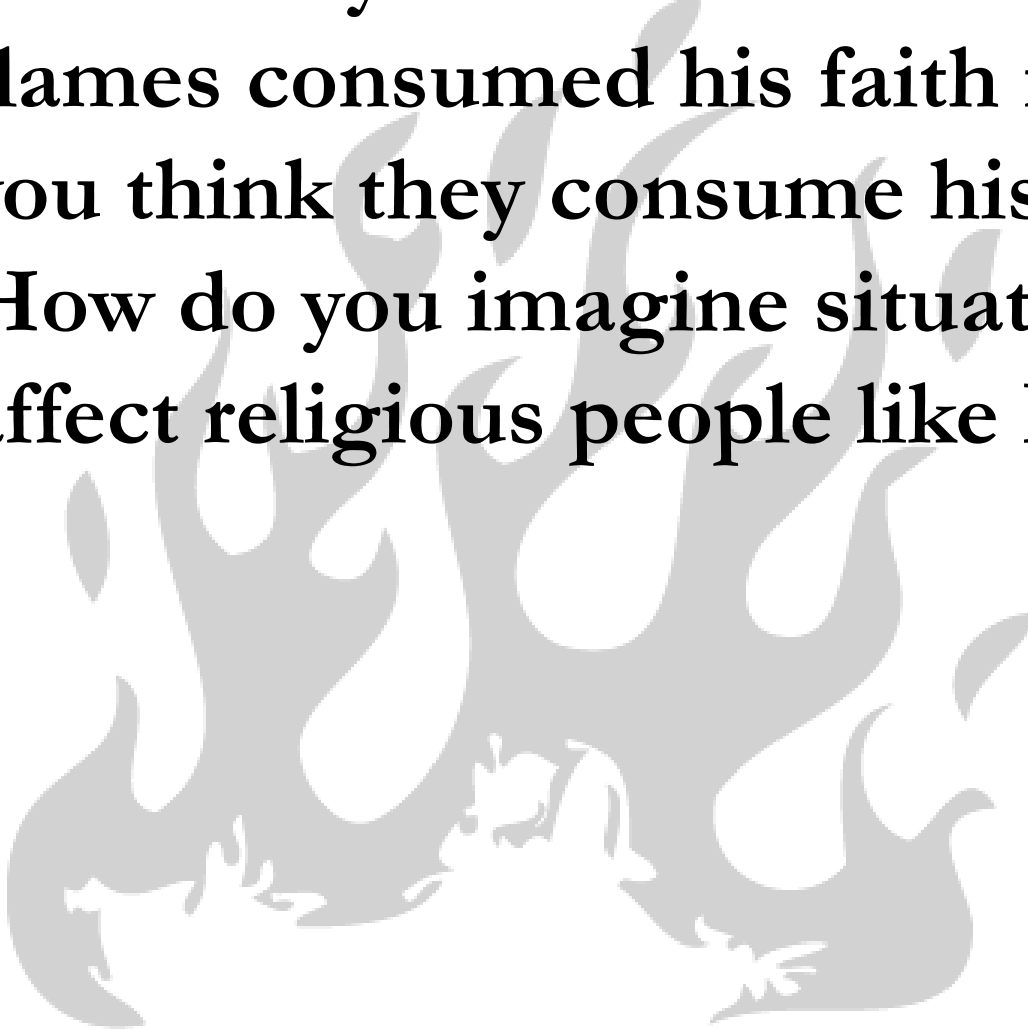
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Consumed



Eliezer says that on the first night, the flames consumed his faith forever. Why do you think they consume his faith forever? How do you imagine situations like this affect religious people like Eliezer?





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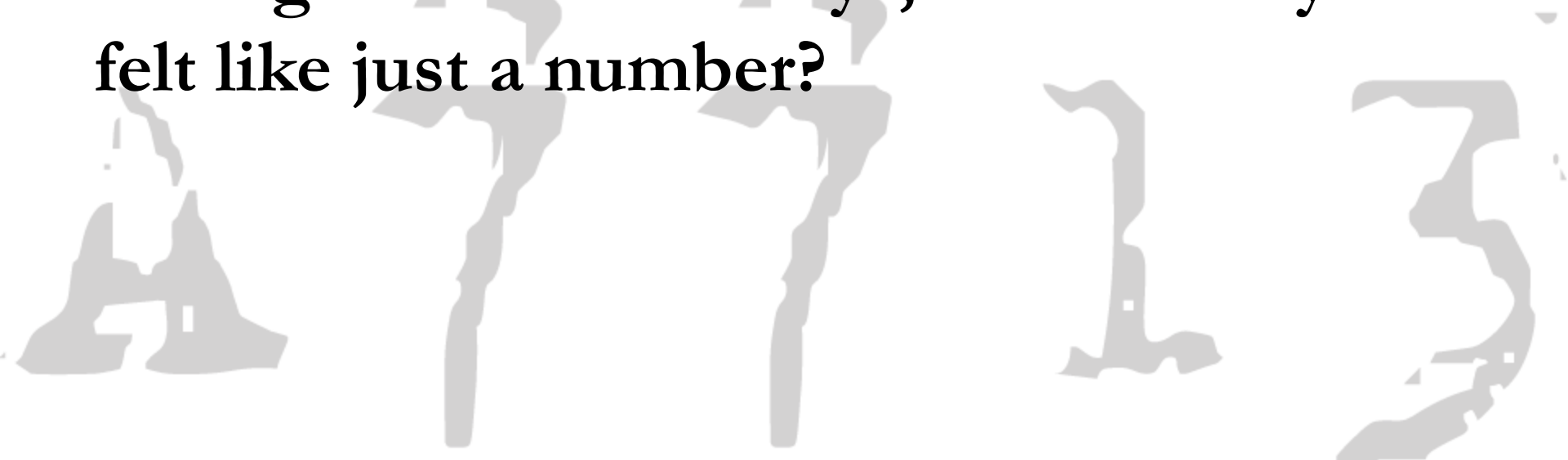
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Number



While in Auschwitz, the prisoners are stamped with a number. How do you think they felt to have their names stripped away and replaced with a number? What kind of feelings? In smaller ways, when have you felt like just a number?





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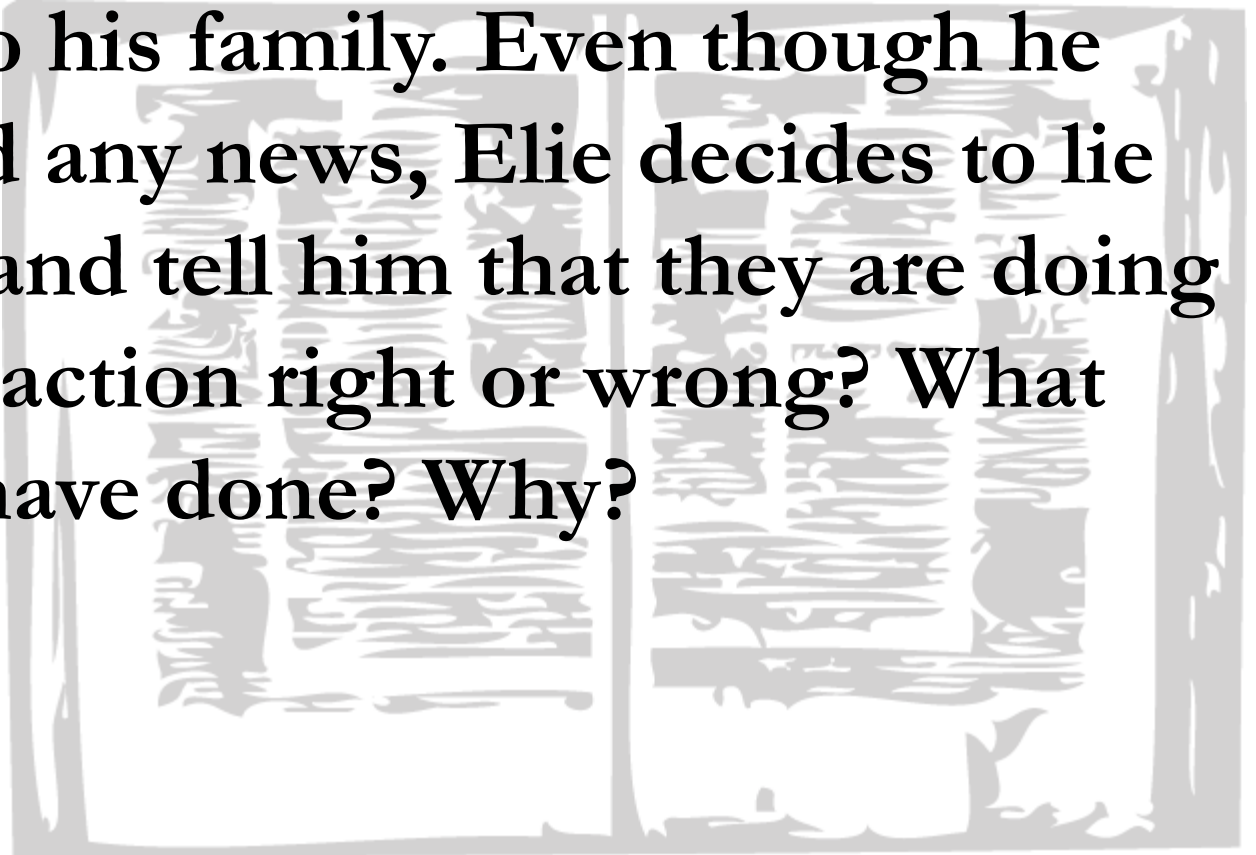
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Lies



The Wiesels' cousin, Stein, finds them in Auschwitz and wants to know what happened to his family. Even though he hasn't heard any news, Elie decides to lie to the man and tell him that they are doing fine. Is this action right or wrong? What would you have done? Why?





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Music



Jewish musicians are not allowed to play music by German composers like Beethoven. What do you think about that? Why would the Germans make such a rule? Have you ever experienced any similar rules? How did it make you feel? Or how would it make you feel?



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Gold Tooth



Eliezer gets lucky and doesn't have to have his gold tooth pulled out. Think about the reality that the only thing he owns is a gold tooth. Now think about what you own. When you compare yourself with him, what thoughts and feelings come to mind? How would you feel if all of your things were taken away and you only had a gold tooth left?



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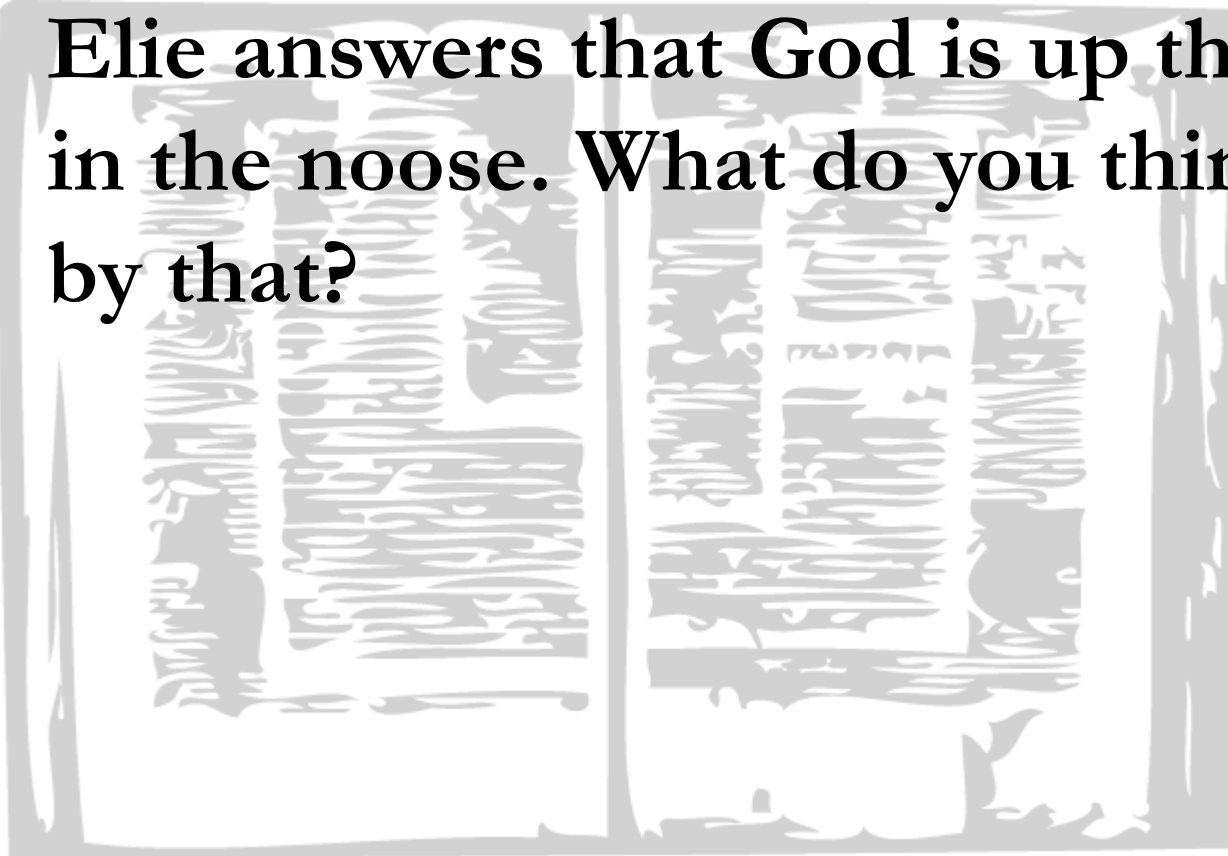
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Where is God?



When the Nazis are hanging the three prisoners, one Jew asks, “Where is God?”

Elie answers that God is up there hanging in the noose. What do you think he means by that?





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Distress

Schlomo is so distressed that he asks Eliezer to take all of his silverware to pass on the only wealth he has left. Try to think back and remember the most distress or sadness you have ever seen your parents suffering through. Describe what was happening and what your thoughts were about your parents.



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Produce



The Nazis keep coming into camp for The Selection. How do you think the Jews feel having to prove over and over that they can produce something in order to be worth anything? Is that what makes humans worth something . . . their ability to produce something?



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Promises



At one point someone says that they have more faith in Hitler than anyone else because he has kept his word every time. In what ways does it feel like that sometimes, that only the evil, bad guys are the one keeping their promises?



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Joy



When Rabbi Bona speaks, he always has joy on his face and his words always bring people comfort, never rebellion. Have you ever known somebody like that? What are your thoughts about them? Or if you you've never known anyone like that, what do you think about the idea of such a person? How could they possibly have so much joy?



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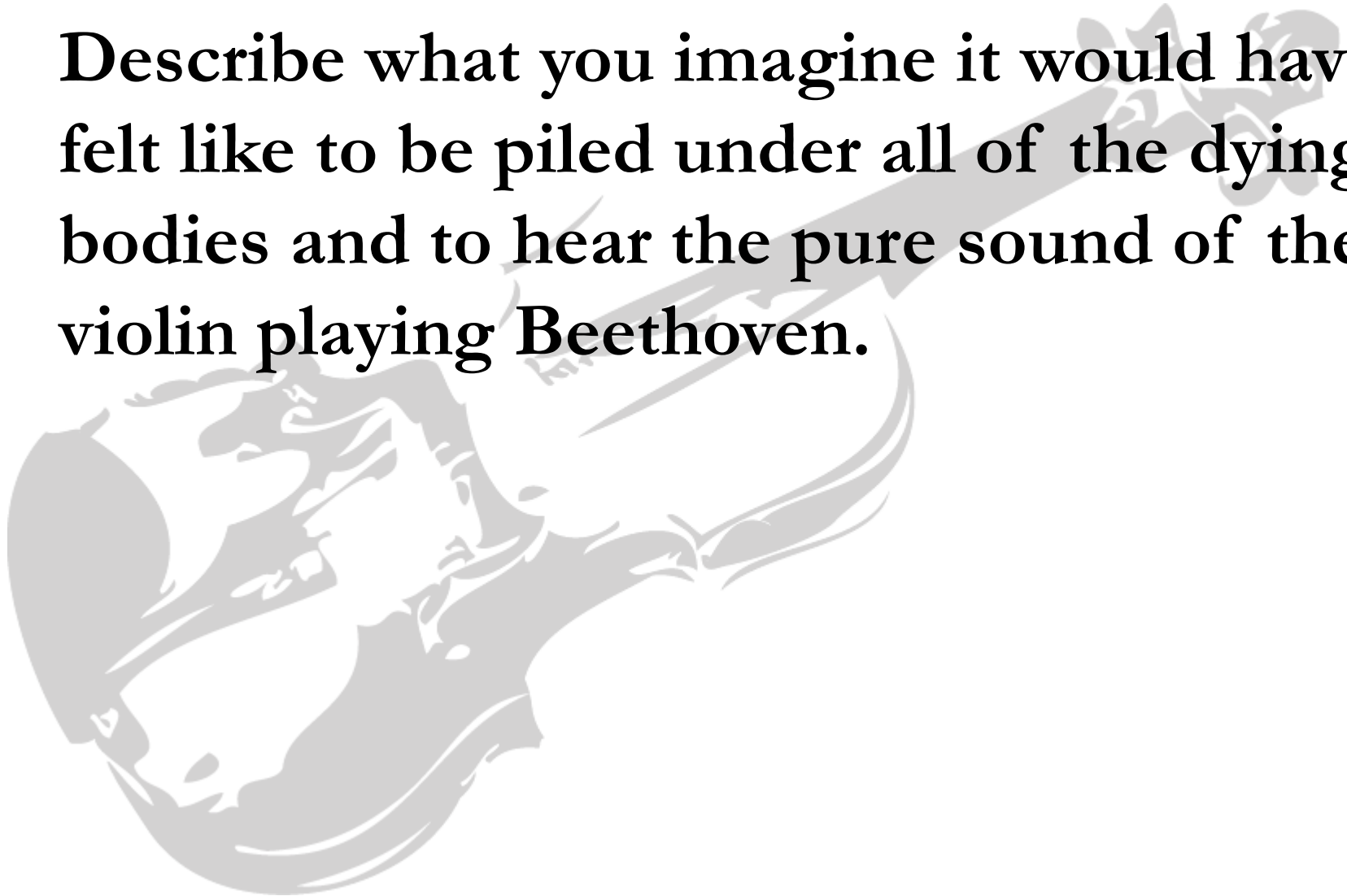
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Violin



Describe what you imagine it would have felt like to be piled under all of the dying bodies and to hear the pure sound of the violin playing Beethoven.





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Lost Hope



How would you feel if your father lost all hope? What would you do? How would you try to restore his hope? Do you think your efforts would be successful? Why or why not?



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Every Man...



A guard tells Eliezer that in a concentration camp every man must live for himself, must not worry about anyone else. What do you think about that idea? In what ways should every man live for himself? In what ways is that advice flat out wrong?





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Night



Why do you think the memoir is called *Night*? Why does he keep saying:

“Night was falling?”

“Night fell?”

“Night had fallen.” etc.

Write about the difference between day and night, light and darkness, good and evil, spring and winter .



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