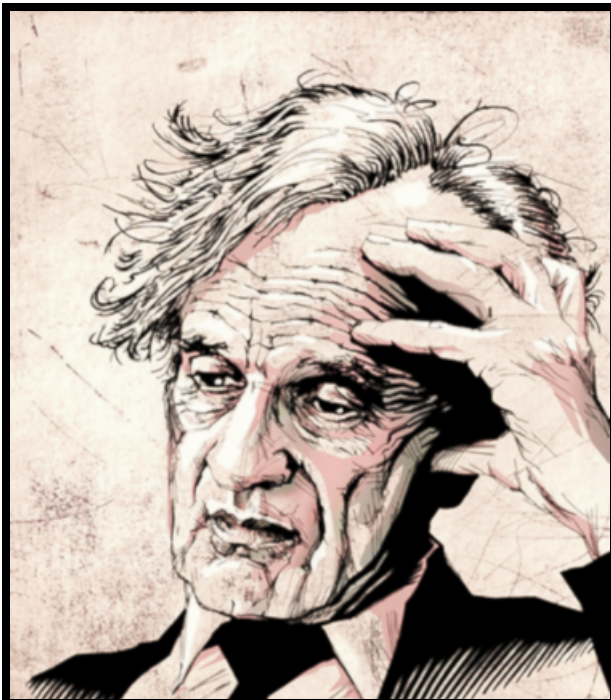Name: _____   Date: _____   Period: _____

Elie Wiesel
Night | Background

Directions: The best way to remember authors is to act as though they are people that you know in real life. Try to remember the basics, but also random facts about each author. In the long run, it is the random things that we retain. This is an autobiographical overview of Elie Wiesel.

Elie Wiesel (1928-Present)

Elie Wiesel was born in Sighet, Romania, in 1928. He grew up like many Romanian children during that time frame- with a close emphasis on family, the community, and his faith. He was brought up in a Jewish family. In 1944, at the age of sixteen, his village was destroyed upon deportation.

In 1945, Elie survived and lived in Auschwitz, Buna, Buchenwald and Gleiwitz (concentration camps during World War II). Elie survived the Jewish Holocaust dictated by Hitler. Elie lost his family, his innocence, and questioned his faith.

After the war, Elie was sent to a French orphanage. He later studied at the University Paris Sorbonne in France. It was during his time at university that he (with the guidance of another colleague) began to reflect on his experiences. He studied journalism.

It became his mission to tell his story to the world, not for fame, but for moral obligation. He wants to ensure that the lives and stories of so many others destroyed by the Holocaust will never be forgotten or denied existence. His most taught piece in classrooms across the United States is Night (published in 1958). After Night, Wiesel published thirty more books. In 1963, Wiesel became a U.S. citizen. He married in 1969 and continued in his efforts to write and speak about the Holocaust. He earned the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986. He also was appointed President chair of the Commission on the Holocaust.

Wiesel has received many additional awards for his writing, dedication, and service to providing knowledge and advocating a voice of remembrance regarding the Holocaust and victims that never survived to tell their full stories.