**Holocaust Unit Discussion Questions and Journal Prompts**

**Journal 1: Setting**

**Discuss with your group or a partner before writing:**

* What are the clues to the setting? What are the words and phrases that help you picture the setting?
* Did the setting change? If so, how?
* What is the mood of the book so far?
* How is the character responding the setting?
* How is the setting affecting the characters?
* What conflicts are the characters facing? What is creating the conflicts? The setting? Society’s values and beliefs? Other characters?

**Choose one to write about:**

1. What mood does the setting create? What words and phrases does the author use to create that mood? Provide specific evidence.
2. How is the setting affecting the characters in the story? (You might think about the following: Is the setting changing their lives or their character traits? Teaching them a lesson? Creating conflicts from them? Motivating them to do something?) Provide specific evidence.

**Journal 2: Character**

**Discuss with your group or a partner before writing:**

* How is the setting creating adversity for the characters?
* How are the characters responding to the adversity in the setting?
* Which characters are acting cruelly and which are acting compassionately? What is motivating them?
* Are any of the characters changing? If so, how? What is causing them to change?
* Which characters are not changing? Why wouldn’t a character change?

**Choose one to write about:**

1. Choose one character from the book. Give evidence that he/she is acting cruelly or compassionately. What is motivating him or her to act this way?
2. How is a character changing? What is causing him/her to change? (You might think about if it’s the setting, a conflict, another character or his or her current circumstances.)
3. If a character is not changing, give evidence that the main character is static. Why would the author choose a static main character?

**Journal 3: Point of View**

**Discuss with your group or a partner before writing:**

* Identify the point of view the story is told from. What information does this point of view reveal or hide?
* How would the story change if it was told from another point of view?
* Why is point of view important? Why might the author have chosen to write from this particular point of view?
* From the book’s point of view, what does the author appear to be saying about human nature?

**Choose one to write about:**

1. Identify the point of view of the book. Why did the author choose to write from this point of view? You might think about what information is revealed or hidden because of this point of view, or how the world and/or other characters appear from this point of view.
2. What does the point of view from which the story is told suggest about human nature?
3. *Night* alternative: Towards the end of the book, Weisel sees a son leave his father to die. He begins to compare himself to this son, and when he gives soup to his starving father, he says, "But it was with a heavy heart. I felt that I was giving it up to him against my will. No better than Rabbi Eliahou's son had I withstood the test." (102) **What is the test? Has Weisel passed it or not? Give evidence.**

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**Journal 1: Setting**

**Discuss with your group or a partner before writing:**

* What are the clues to the setting? What are the words and phrases that help you picture the setting?
* Did the setting change? If so, how?
* What is the mood of the book so far?
* How is the character responding the setting?
* Is the setting affecting the characters? Why or why not?

**Choose one to write about:**

1. What mood does the setting create? What words and phrases does the author use to create that mood? Provide specific evidence.
2. How are the characters responding to the setting? For example, is it causing them to act, behave or feel a certain way?

**Journal 2: Character**

**Discuss with your group or a partner before writing:**

* How are the characters responding to the setting?
* Are any of the characters changing? If so, how? What is causing them to change?
* Which characters are not changing? Why wouldn’t a character change?

**Choose one to write about:**

1. Choose one character from the book. Give evidence that he/she is acting cruelly or compassionately. What is motivating him or her to act this way?

**Journal 3: Point of View**

**Discuss with your group or a partner before writing:**

* Identify the point of view the story is told from. Why is the point of view important?
* How would the story change if it was told from another point of view?

**Choose one to write about:**

1. Why did the author choose this point of view? How did the choice of point of view affect the story? For example, both stories are in 3rd person but one gives the point of view of a sixteen-year-old Jewish girl and the other gives the point of view of a young German boy.
2. How did Hannah change over the course of the book? Why did the setting change her? What changed her?
3. Is what happened to Bruno justice?