

Discussion Question Guidelines

For our class discussions, you will develop your own questions based upon your reading for the day. During discussions days, you will ask the others in your group your questions and discuss anything that comes from the questions. Once your groups finish, choose two questions that sparked discussion within the group to share with the whole class.

Compose six questions for each reading section, two of each kind. The sample questions below are for the Prologue and Introduction to *Night*.

Questions of Fact

- Focus on details from the text.
- Ask about people, places, and things.
- Choose surface questions for others to answer.

Examples:

- Why did Wiesel have trouble finding a publisher for *Night*?
- What two reasons does Wiesel give for writing this book?
- What does Mauriac say first drew him to Wiesel?

Questions of Interpretation

- Focus on meanings that the text communicates.
- Ask about symbols, themes, and underlying messages.
- Choose deeper questions for others to answer.

Examples:

- Why did Mauriac find it impossible to imagine what happened to the Jewish children his wife saw?
- Why does Mauriac believe that the dream conceived in the 18th century dies with the trainloads of Jewish children?
- How do Wiesel and Mauriac think that reading *Night* can help ensure that the Holocaust will never happen again?

Questions That Are Open Ended

- Focus on moving beyond the text.
- Ask about future effects and implications.
- Choose open-ended questions for others to answer.

Examples:

- Why do some people today deny that the Holocaust ever happened?
- Which do you feel is worse—the death of the body or the death of the soul? Why?