“Never Shall I Forget” from *Night* by Elie Wiesel

Elie Wiesel writes a section of poetry on page 34 of *Night*.

1. Reread the poem:

Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp, that turned my life into one long night seven times sealed.
Never shall I forget that smoke.
Never shall I forget the small faces of the children whose bodies I saw transformed into smoke under a silent sky.
Never shall I forget those flames that consumed my faith forever.
Never shall I forget the nocturnal silence that deprived me for all eternity of the desire to live.
Never shall I forget those moments that murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to ashes.
Never shall I forget those things, even were I condemned to live as long as God Himself.
Never.

2. Assignment: You will be creating your own “Never Shall I Forget” poem based on an unforgettable memory using Elie Wiesel’s prose as a template.

To help you brainstorm a memory make brief notes for each of the following prompts:

a) Recall pleasant times from your past.

b) Recall buildings/places in which you have lived.

c) Recall secrets you have or had.

d) Recall magical people from your past. (Literal or metaphorical)

e) Recall incidents that filled you with dread.
f) Recall dangerous things you have done.

g) Recall bad things you have done.

h) Recall things that happened during vacations.

i) Recall things that happened in school.

j) Recall things that have happened near a body of water.

k) Recall your romantic crushes.

l) Recall funny things that made you happy.

Now pick a memory that evokes strong emotions and create a word bank.

3. Write the words that come into your mind. Write freely.
4. What are the five senses you remember from your memory? What did you see, hear, touch or feel, smell, and taste? Fill in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>See</th>
<th>Hear</th>
<th>Touch/Feel</th>
<th>Smell</th>
<th>Taste</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

5. Reflect on the experience. Looking back now, what would you have done differently? What has changed? How do you see things differently now?

6. Using the following template (imitating Wiesel's writing) create your own “Never Shall I Forget” poem on a separate piece of paper (attach edited final poem to this packet):

Template:
Each line begins, Never Shall I Forget, then includes:

- Never Shall I Forget: time and place
- Never Shall I Forget: powerful vivid image
- Never Shall I Forget: person’s name or relationship plus sensory image
- Never Shall I Forget: interpretation or meaning of memory
- Never Shall I Forget: weather feature
- Never Shall I Forget: powerful feeling or emotion
- Never Shall I Forget: new attitude or what learned
- Never Shall I Forget: statement of hope
- Never Shall I Forget: these things as long as____________________
- Never.
Example:

Never shall I forget that mighty oak gleaming in the California sun where dreams are forever. Never shall I forget the searing pain and shock as I crashed to the ground, body and dreams. Never shall I forget my mother rushing to soothe my trembling body, gently cradling my limp wrist. Never shall I forget my five-year-old silly foolishness that believed anything was possible. Never shall I forget climbing higher and higher pretending I was a beautiful trapeze artist in the circus. Never shall I forget the tears pouring from my eyes, thinking my dreams of fame and glory destroyed. Never shall I forget my eager imagination and curiosity only stunted for a short time. Never shall I forget that I am invincible, if only in my mind. Never shall I forget these things as long as I dream and wish. Never.

Poem Rubric:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>3 Points</th>
<th>2 Points</th>
<th>1 Point</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Word Choice</strong></td>
<td>Writer clearly uses specific nouns and vivid, active verbs to create a picture in the reader's mind</td>
<td>Writer somewhat uses specific nouns and vivid, active verbs to create a picture in the reader's mind</td>
<td>Writer hardly uses specific nouns and vivid, active verbs to create a picture in the reader's mind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ideas and Content</strong></td>
<td>Writer uses a clear topic and theme that is supported by details</td>
<td>Writer uses a somewhat clear theme that is somewhat supported by details</td>
<td>Writer hardly uses details and/or does not have a clear theme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organization (Form)</strong></td>
<td>Writer meets the form requirements of a free verse OR of a rhyming poem</td>
<td>Writer somewhat meets the form requirements of a free verse OR of a rhyming poem</td>
<td>Writer hardly meets the form requirements of a free verse OR of a rhyming poem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Line Fluency</strong></td>
<td>Lines are concise (no excess words) and organized in a meaningful way</td>
<td>Lines are somewhat concise and somewhat organized in a meaningful way</td>
<td>Lines are hardly concise and hardly organized in a meaningful way</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Conventions</strong></td>
<td>Few errors</td>
<td>Some errors</td>
<td>Many errors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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