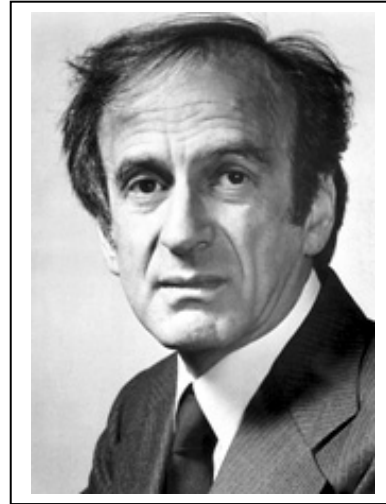


**Eliezer Wiesel**  
**1986**

*Not caring is the worst evil*

Elie Wiesel said it was important to fight evil in the world.

When Elie was a boy he lived in **Romania**. It was just before the start of **World War II**. He and his family lived a normal happy life. When World War II started his life changed. Germans began to dislike the Jews, and treated them badly. They made Jews wear stars on their clothes and took away many of their freedoms. They could not play outside or go to **Synagogue**.



The Germans who disliked Jews were called Nazis.

The **Nazis** treated Jews and people they did not like in a very bad way. They sent them to camps called **Concentration Camps**. Families could not be together in these camps and many people died from hunger and illness.

The Nazis did not like other people. **Slavs, Gypsies, Gays, and the disabled** were jailed, beaten and sent to concentration camps. Many of them died.

The Nazis took away everything these people owned such as houses and clothes. Other countries in the world did not help the Jews.

- **Wiesel visited Auschwitz with Oprah Winfrey for his last visit there**
- **Wiesel wrote a book telling what happened to Jews at Auschwitz.**

Elie Wiesel's family was sent to a concentration camp named the **Auschwitz-Birkenau** camp.

At Auschwitz the Nazis **tattooed** a number on the arms of all the people there. This tattoo was so the Nazis could use it instead of their names.

These tattoos never came off and people who were in concentration camps

still have them on their arms.

Elie's number was A-7713. He and his father were separated from his mother and sisters. His mother died at Auschwitz. Elie and his father were sent to work **camp**s. They worked as slaves for the Nazis. They lived in very bad conditions with little food and few clothes

After a while Wiesel and his father were moved to another camp named **Buchenwald**. The American Army was coming to help the Jews but Nazis killed as many Jews as they could so they would not be rescued.

Wiesel's father died after being beaten by a Nazi guard. He was sick and could not work.

When the American Army rescued the Jews who were still alive Elie was sent to an **orphanage** in France. He met his sisters there.

Elie went to the University and studied French. He became a **writer** to tell about his experiences.

For many years Wiesel could not talk about what had happened to him in the camps. In 1952 he met another writer who asked him to tell his story in a book. He wrote the book *Night* to tell his story. Students in high schools all over the world read *Night* to learn about Elie Wiesel and his life.

Wiesel wrote *Night* so that people would know what happened and stop this from ever happening to anyone else ever again.

Elie came to America. He became a citizen of the US. He won many awards for his writing.

He helped make a museum to remember the **Holocaust**.

Wiesel met President Bill Clinton at the Museum opening. He spoke about keeping a holocaust from happening in any other country in the world.

Wiesel won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986 for his work and writing about the holocaust.

## **Activities**

### **Vocabulary Terms**

- 1. Synagogue**
- 2. World War II**
- 3. Concentration camps**
- 4. Slavs, gays, gypsies and the disabled**
- 5. Auschwitz-Birkenau**
- 6. Work camp**
- 7. Tattoo**
- 8. Buchenwald**
- 9. Orphanage**
- 10. Writer**
- 11. Israel**
- 12. Holocaust**

### **Study Questions**

1. Where did Elie Wiesel grow up?
2. Why did the Nazis treat Jews badly?
3. Who else did they treat badly?
4. What happened to Elie's family during the war?
5. Why did Elie Wiesel wait many years before writing and speaking of his experience?
6. What book did he write to tell about his life?
7. Why did he win the Nobel Peace Prize? What President did he meet?

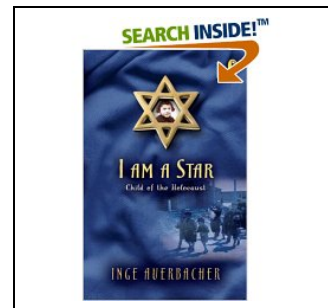
Note to Teacher: Due to the sensitive content of this biography we suggest reading as the primary activity. If you develop activities for this Nobel Laureate and would like to share them please email them to us.

Thank you [Nobel Laureate Writing Team](#)

## Read Together

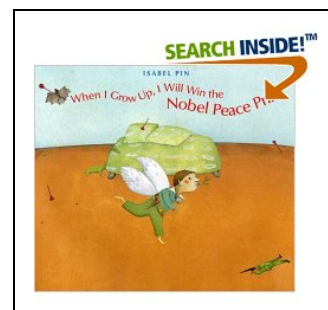
[I Am a Star: Child of the Holocaust \(A Puffin Book\) \(Paperback\)](#)

[By Inge Auerbacher \(Author\)](#)



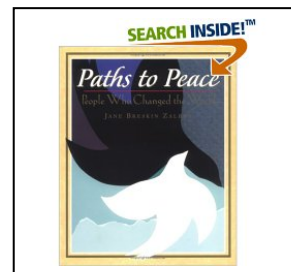
[When I Grow Up, I Will Win the Nobel Peace Prize \(Hardcover\)](#)

[By Isabel Pin \(Author\), Nancy Seitz \(Translator\)](#)



[Paths to Peace: People Who Changed the World:](#)

[By Jane Breskin Zalben \(Author\)](#)



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