

Books to read along with Elie Wiesel's **Night**

These supplementary reading books deal with topics & themes that arise in Night. Some recount others' experiences during the Nazi holocaust; some narrate other examples of genocide or the violent oppression of a people. All are examples of nonfiction – the stories are real, as far as we know. Before selecting a book, I strongly recommend reading a sample to gauge your interest. You may select a book which is not on this list; however, it must be nonfiction & deal with the experience of, or response to, genocide or war. You must also get any such choices approved by me beforehand.

Each title is followed by the author's name (if available) and a short summary. All titles are included in the CA Department of Education's Recommended Literature in Reading/Language Arts list (with the exception of those listed with an *, which therefore require parental permission). You can search the list here: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/rl/ll/ap/litsearch.asp>

I Will Fight No More Forever: Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce War. Reports on the countless military campaigns of the Nez Perce tribe that were initiated by broken and ignored promises made by the U.S. military during westward expansion.

The Other Victims: First-Person Stories of Non-Jews Persecuted by the Nazis by Ina Friedman. People persecuted during the Holocaust for being homosexual, disabled, or from an ethnic minority or for belonging to religious groups opposed by the Nazis describe their experiences during World War II. Those wartime experiences are told in the various voices of these victims from their personal accounts.

Endless Steppe: Growing Up In Siberia by Esther Hautzig. During World War II the eleven-year-old author and her family were arrested in Poland as political enemies by the Russians and exiled to Siberia. Hautzig recounts the trials of the following five years spent on the harsh Asian steppe. The emotional intensity of the situations depicted reflects the political influences of that era.

The Stones Cry Out: A Cambodian Childhood, 1975-1980 by Molyda Szymusiak. This true story tells how a Cambodian girl and three younger cousins survived the barbaric regime of Pol Pot. Those survivors are living in Paris with their adoptive parents, a Polish couple.

Against All Hope: A Memoir of Life in Castro's Gulag by Armando Valladares. The author, who spent 22 years as a political prisoner in Cuba, describes the violations of human rights and degradation of prisoners under Castro's regime.

One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. Ivan Denisovich, convicted on the baseless charges of the crime of treason and sentenced to ten years of slave labor in Siberia, endures the brutality of a totalitarian system. Solzhenitsyn draws upon his personal experiences in the vast system of prisons and labor camps that came into being shortly after the Bolsheviks seized power in Russia in 1917 and that underwent an enormous expansion during the rule of Stalin from 1924 to 1953.

* A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah. This gripping story by a children's-rights advocate recounts his experiences as a boy growing up in Sierra Leone in the 1990s, during one of the most brutal and violent civil wars in recent history.

* A Cambodian Odyssey by Haing Ngor. An extraordinarily intense account of the author's survival of the Khmer Rouge holocaust in Cambodia. Ngor would move to the U.S. and later win an Academy Award for his portrayal of Dith Pran in The Killing Fields. Several disturbing, graphic accounts of atrocities.

* Zlata's Diary by Zlata Filipovic. From September 1991 through October 1993, young Zlata Filipovic kept a diary. When she began it, she was 11 years old, concerned mostly with friends, school, piano lessons, MTV, and Madonna. As the diary ends, she has become used to constant bombing and snipers; severe shortages of food, water, and gas; and the end of a privileged adolescence in her native Sarajevo.

* We Wish To Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed With Our Families by Philip Gourevich. In April 1994, the Rwandan government called upon everyone in the Hutu majority to kill each member of the Tutsi minority, and over the next three months 800,000 Tutsis perished in the most unambiguous case of genocide since Hitler's war against the Jews. Philip Gourevitch's haunting & unrelentingly horrifying book is an anatomy of the war in Rwanda, a vivid history of the tragedy's background, and an unforgettable account of its aftermath. One of the most acclaimed books of the year, this account will endure as a chilling document of our time.

* What is the What by Dave Eggers. An epic novel based on the life of Valentino Achak Deng who, along with thousands of other children —the so-called Lost Boys—was forced to leave his village in Sudan at the age of seven and trek hundreds of miles by foot, pursued by militias, government bombers, and wild animals, crossing the deserts of three countries to find freedom. When he finally is resettled in the United States, he finds a life full of promise, but also heartache and myriad new challenges. Moving, suspenseful, and unexpectedly funny, What Is the What is an astonishing novel that illuminates the lives of millions through one extraordinary man.