

from *Survival in Auschwitz: "On the Bottom"* by Primo Levi  
from *Night* by Elie Wiesel  
"When in Early Summer" by Nelly Sachs

### Literary Analysis: Memoir

A **memoir** is a type of autobiography in which the writer focuses on an aspect or period of his or her life, such as his or her experiences in a particular job or relationship with a particular person. Both Levi's and Wiesel's accounts focus on their experiences in Nazi concentration camps during World War II.

**DIRECTIONS:** Use the following questions to help you understand the meaning of the events on which Levi and Wiesel focus.

1. What do both Wiesel and Levi show about physical living conditions in the concentration camps? Cite examples to support your answer.

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2. What do both Wiesel and Levi show about the way people were treated in the concentration camps? Cite examples to support your answer.

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3. At the time they were sent to the camps, what did Levi and Wiesel have in common, and what were the main differences between them?

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4. What would you say these two accounts contribute to humanity or to the study of history?

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5. What personal reasons do you think the two authors had for writing these accounts?

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