

Massachusetts Letters About Literature Honors, | 2011 Level I

Dear Mr. Elie Wiesel,

Dust. That is what your story makes my issues seem like. You say you lost your mother, your father, your siblings, your god, and your soul. I have that and now I realize how valuable that is. It makes me realize how lucky I am to be able to eat a good lunch every day and sleep in a bed at night.

Whenever I have a problem, I just think back to this book and the problem doesn't seem so bad. It's very comforting to know how well off I am.

In the few genuinely scary books that I have read, I am able to say, "This didn't happen." But with your book, *Night*, I am forced to say, "This is real." And that is why this book is so moving and undeniably frightening. You wrote with such emotional power in sentences such as "Never shall I forget those moments that murdered my god and my soul and turned my dreams to ashes."

This is the only book that I have ever read that had me blinking back tears. This book has filled me with shock, fear, sadness, but also strangely, happiness and hope. What shocks me the most is that something like this could happen and the world around this was silent. It makes me happy that maybe now, because of your book, there is hope for a world where this will never happen.

Your Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech is included in your book and there was one sentence in it that really affected me. You said, "Wherever men or women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must — at that moment — become the center of the universe."

If I could ask you one question it would be, "What kept you going through this when everything you ever had loved had died?"

I'm not going to complain about every small problem I have anymore. Thank you, Mr. Wiesel.

Bei allem Respekt und Dank,

Delano

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