**Characters**

**Chlomo Wiesel** - This character is held in great esteem by the community. The relationship between this character and a family member is the most important of the story. At some point, this character is taken away to the crematory still breathing.

**Eliezer Wiesel** - This character may no longer believe in the merciful and just God but believes even less in giving into death by concentration camp madness. Consequently, this character is bent solely on survival. This character survives, but merely as a corpse in a mirrored gaze just waking up from the long night.

**A-7713** - This is how the narrator is identified by the Nazis in the concentration camp.

**Alphonse** - This character is a German Jew "with an extraordinarily aged face," who is the head of a block. This character would organize a cauldron of soup for the weaker ones in the block.

**Akiba Drumer** - This character is a deeply religious elder who interpreted the concentration camps as God's test for his people. This character is already dead when "selected."

**Franek** - This character, who is a former student from Warsaw, is the boss in the electrical warehouse. When this character acquires a much sought-after gold crown, this character becomes kinder and even gives out extra soup when possible.

**Hersch Genud** - This character is an elder who conversed about the camps as a trial for the people. This character is "well versed in the cabbala [and] spoke of the end of the world and the coming Messiah."

**Idek** - This character is a prisoner put in charge of a barracks and of all who work in the electrical warehouse. This character is prone to violent fits, so people try to stay away from him.

**Juliek** - This character kindly explains what to do and what not to do on the block. This character is seen playing Beethoven on the violin and subsequently found dead the next morning.

**Meir Katz** - This character is a farmer and is put in charge of the wagon taking the prisoners to Buchenwald because of strong health.

**Louis** - This character is a violinist from Holland who complains that they would not let Jews play German music.

**Moshe the Beadle** - This character is the first person we meet in the novel. The community dismisses this character as insane.

**Pipel** - This character refuses to give information under torture and is hanged before all the prisoners. This character is too light to die by hanging and struggles for hours at the end of the rope.

**Madame Schachter** - This character has a 10 year-old son. This character moaned and becomes hysterical and shrieks "I can see fire!"

**Stein** - This character looks for news from the new arrivals at Auschwitz about family members. This character is lied to about the family, told that they are safe, but later learns the truth.

**Tibi** - This character believes that the world powers should create a Jewish state of Israel in the area of Palestine. This character's brother has the same beliefs.

**Yossi** - This character's parents were Jews from Czechoslovakia who had been exterminated at Birkenau. This character believes in Zionism and teaches another character Hebrew chants while they work.