**Object Descriptions**

This section provides a short description of all the major objects in the book. This can be printed out as a study guide for students, used as a "key" for leading a class discussion, or you can jump to the quiz/homework section to find worksheets that incorporate these descriptions into a variety of question formats.

**Objects**

**Sighet** - A small town in Transylvania where Elie and his family live before they are deported to the concentration camps.

**Talmud** - A Jewish religious text.

**Cabbala** - Jewish mystical writings that emphasize the significance of numbers, among other things. Elie studies it under Moshe the Beadle.

**Cattle trains (wagons)** - The Germans use these to transport the Jews to the concentration camps.

**Yellow star** - A decree comes from the Germans that all Jews wear this identifying symbol.

**Ghettos** - Jewish settlements set up by the Germans. Two are created in Sighet before the Jews are deported to the concentration camps.

**Auschwitz** - The first concentration camp to which the Jews from Elie's town are taken. Elie and his father spend three weeks there before being relocated.

**Birkenau** - Elie's mother and youngest sister are exterminated here.

**Crematory** - The furnace used to dispose of the bodies of the Jews killed in the camps.

**Baton** - Dr. Mengele uses this to separate the prisoners to the left and to the right.

**Kaddish** - A prayer for the dead.

**A-7713** - A form of identification that is engraved on Elie's arm.

**Buna** - The second concentration camp where Elie and his father are taken to.

**Palestine** - Elie and his friends, Yossi and Tibi, talk about going to here after the war.

**(Elie's) gold crown** - A Jewish dentist from Czechoslovakia tries to take this without success. However, Franek, the foreman, gets this by tormenting the main character's father.

**Gallows** - The place of several hangings, including the Pipel with the face of an angel.

**Bell** - This object regulates everything in the camp; it signals roll call and even the selection.

**Gleiwitz** - The camp the prisoners reach during the winter march.

**Juliek's violin** - This object is heard in a room full of dying men. In the morning, Elie finds it smashed.

**Beethoven's concerto** - The piece that Juliek plays before his death.

**Buchenwald** - The concentration camp where Elie's father dies. A Jewish resistance takes control of the camp.