Chapter Seven

One passage worth examining in chapter seven is: “One day when we had stopped, a workman took a piece of bread out of his bag and threw it into a wagon. There was a stampede. Dozens of starving men fought each other to the death for a few crumbs. The German workmen took a lively interest in this spectacle” (Weisel 73). I picked this quote because I think it shows a good amount of imagery and use of vocabulary. It is explaining that when they were on the train, they passed by a village and the people in it were not concerned with the prisoners. They only threw the piece of bread in the train car for their own amusement. The people wanted to see the prisoners fight to the death over a tiny piece of bread. It gave them joy. I think that is just sick and terrible. How can they find something so horrid to be exciting? Where they not informed enough of what was happening to the people in the camps? If they did truly understand I do not think they would act that way towards Eliezer and the others. Why would they?

The element of author’s style I examined is pace. The writing in this piece is very detailed and descriptive. It focuses more on the plot rather than the details in this section of text. He explains what happens, and then quickly moves on to the next part of the story. He even goes to explain a similar incidence that happened a couple years later.
A vocabulary word I found to discuss can be found in the sentence, “They undressed him, the survivors *avidly* sharing out his clothes, then two “gravediggers” took him, one by the head and one by the feet, and threw him out of the wagon like a sack of flour” (Wiesel 72). “Avid” is to show great enthusiasm, so in the text, *avidly* means the other prisoners *really* wanted the dead prisoner’s clothes.

Another vocabulary word to review comes in the passage, “We lived on snow; it took the place of bread. The days were like nights, and the nights left the *dregs* of their darkness in our souls” (Wiesel 73). The word “dreg” means the sediment of fluids. In this case, they are talking about night leaving a bit of itself in their bodies. It does not mean that literally, it is used figuratively, and night is being personified. It really means that the prisoner’s minds are dull and dark now.

**Chapter Eight**

A quote I found in chapter eight is, “He was burning with fever. Like a wild beast, I cleared a way for myself to the coffee cauldron. And I managed to carry back a cupful. I had a sip. The rest was for him. I can’t forget the light of thankfulness in his eyes when he gulped it down—an animal gratitude” (Weisel 77). It shows how truly Eliezer cared for his father. He wanted to make sure he survived. The author did not even care that barely drank any of the coffee. I also think he did not want to be alone. If his father died, he would be all alone and would have had nobody left. The author’s style for this quote involves a figure of speech. When Wiesel writes, “like a wild beast,” the author is using a simile. There is also a metaphor in this quote too. At the end, when Eliezer talks about the thanks his father gives him for the coffee Eliezer brought him, it says his father thanked him with an “animal gratitude.” Obviously, the
author’s father is not an animal; he means the father did not have any strength in him to speak so he thanked Eliezer with his eyes. Animals cannot speak, so they communicate to you in other ways. For instance, a dog wags its tail, and a cat purrs. Eliezer’s father had a thank you in his eyes instead of on his lips. The author knew his father was close to dying and did not expect a thank you from him. In fact, he might have been feeling like he should have said thank you to his father. Eliezer’s father did so much for him while at the camp. He would give him his own rations and would always look out for his son. I think the father wanted his son to survive this horrible event. His father was a great father to all his children. He put them before himself.

Wiesel writes, “But I no longer had the courage or strength. I was riveted to my father’s deathbed” (77). The word “riveted” means to have the full attention of. In the text, Eliezer’s only attention is on his father. He is not worried about anyone or anything else.

Additionally, the narrator states, “He dragged me toward a hillock of snow from which emerged human shapes and ragged pieces of blankets” (Wiesel 79). The word “hillock” suggests a small or tiny hill. In the text, this means that Eliezer and his father had to trudge over a hill of snow, which must have been hard.

Chapter Nine

Toward the end of the novel, Eliezer gives up. He explains, “I had to stay at Buchenwald until April eleventh. I have nothing to say of my life during this period. It no longer mattered. After my father’s death, nothing could touch me anymore. I was transferred to the children’s block, where there were six hundred of us” (Wiesel 82). This quote had a significant meaning to me. It showed how Eliezer felt after his journey was over. It described how bitter he had gotten
over time. In the beginning of the story, the author had nothing to worry about. But now, he is so exhausted and mentally scarred that there is no excitement in how he is speaking.

Eliezer’s feelings directly relate to the author’s tone. Eliezer has a great deal of emotions going on in this moment. His father, along with his whole family, is gone. Nobody he cares about is around anymore. This puts Eliezer into a state where he cannot control what he feels. He has wanted to run away from grief for so long. Prisoners did not have any time to grieve while they were working in that camp. Eliezer thinks he needs to be strong because he has had to be for so long. If he did not endure the struggles and hardships this camp threw at him, he probably would have died. The author’s tone is one of exhaustion and indifference. Later in the text, Eliezer says that he thought of his family, but he would never dream of them. He would dream of soup. I personally think the author feels like if he dreams of them, the grief and sadness will be too extreme. He is trying to put his mind on other things than lost loved ones. The mood in this section is sad and full of sorrow. When it talks about the six hundred children who were orphaned, that just makes your heart drop. I cannot even begin to think what that must have been like, to see all those children without parents. It is depressing, and like much of the book, brings you down. I believe the author’s exhausted and indifferent tone, and depressing mood, help the reader really understand what it must have been like in those times.

Within chapter nine, one of the words worth noting arrived in the statement: “I spent my days in a state of total idleness” (Wiesel 82). “Idleness” alludes to not working or being in a state of laziness. That means Eliezer was not working hard, if at all.

A final vocabulary word to examine is: “We learned on the way that the camp resistance organization had decided not to abandon the Jews and was going to prevent their being
The word “liquidated” means to kill. In this sentence, the resistance decided to help save the Jews, rather than kill them.