

Directions: You will need 3 different color highlighters. Read the essay prompt, thesis and body paragraphs below. Then go back and reread it a second time and mark it up by completing the following tasks:

- Highlight the thesis in one color. Circle the stylistic devices mentioned in the thesis.
- Using this same color, highlight each topic sentence (the 1<sup>st</sup> sentence of each body or middle paragraph)
- In each of the 3 topic sentences – circle the stylistic device(s) being discussed in the paragraph.
- In each body paragraph (the 3 middle paragraphs) – using a different color highlighter than the one you already used, highlight the integrated quotes in one color and the analysis after each quote in another.
- In the margins of the essay, label each part – topic sentences, evidence/Integrated Quotes, analysis.

Essay Prompt: Identify a major **theme** in this passage and explain how the author, Elie Wiesel, uses two or more stylistic devices to convey this theme.

Thesis: Wiesel uses repetition, contrasting language, sentence length and even punctuation to convey the message that in desperate situations, people often attempt to deceive themselves, and in doing so, risk a terrible fate for not only themselves, but their children who will always follow their parents.

### Body Paragraphs

Elie Wiesel uses **repetition** and **contrasting language** to show that many of the Jews seem to be in denial about the dangers of the Nazis. After being ordered to march then run to a smaller ghetto where the Jews will be transported to some unknown location, Wiesel describes the reaction of his parents and others. He remembers how as she is preparing a meal, his mother keeps saying, “We cannot give up, we cannot give up” (20). People often repeat something over and over to convince themselves of something they don’t really believe. In this case, Wiesel’s mother **repeats** this phrase because she is attempting to block the reality of the situation out of her mind and convince herself everything will be fine. Wiesel also describes the reaction of others who “even voiced optimism” and notes how “morale was not so bad” (20). All of these responses though are in **sharp contrast** with a visitor who “sobs” and “begs” for Wiesel’s family to leave with her. “Optimism” brings to mind hope for the future but “sobbing” is associated with despair about what is to come. And clearly there is reason for despair as Wiesel points out

that “for those who had already been deported, it would be too late” (20). There are clear signs about the fate of the Jews, but they blindly cling to hope.

The fact that the Jews, or at least Elie’s family, have a choice, emphasized by the **short sentences** in this scene, is what makes their situation especially terrible. Wiesel writes, “The ghetto was not guarded” (20). The sentence is written simply and is brief to make the point that it would have been easy to leave. It is followed by statements like, “My father wouldn’t hear of it” (20). Short statements like this often sound authoritative and that is the case here. The shortness of this sentence emphasizes how his father refuses to talk about or even listen to the possibility that it might be better for them to leave. Similar to Elie’s mother, he is doing what he can to block out the reality of the situation.

Wiesel’s use of **punctuation** though is what helps the reader to understand how costly this deception from the truth can be. Wiesel explains how his father tells him and his sisters, “If you wish, go there. I shall stay here with your mother and the little one ...” (20). The comma after “if you wish” sets this phrase off. He does not tell his children to go. He does not insist. And his disappointment if they should choose to leave is made clear as Elie’s father trails off shown by the ellipsis. While this may sound like Elie’s father is giving his son and daughters a choice, he really is not. This is demonstrated when Elie responds, “Naturally, we refused to be separated” (20) again set off by a comma to emphasize “naturally.” The word “naturally” brings to mind instinct, similar to how animals follow their natural instincts to survive. Like all living creatures, children follow their instinct too. By not demanding that Elie and his sisters leave, Wiesel’s father is putting them in grave danger because children will always follow their parents even if it is into a lion’s den.

