

HEARING ELIE'S ECHO

FOR OLDER/EDUCATED LEARNERS

Discussion Questions

- Elie Wiesel has often been considered “the greatest Jew of our time”. What is the power of one person’s influence? How does being identified as a Jew help or hurt Elie (or you) in sharing a message with the world?
- Elie’s love of words began in his childhood in Sighet, through the learning of Torah and the reading of literature and philosophy from a young age. How do you think this may have helped him during the years of suffering in the Holocaust?
- Elie was in search of his purpose and pursued many opportunities to have a voice for those who perished while also fighting for the future of the living Jewish world. How did Elie have the strength to keep going in spite of the many challenges faced in trying to make a difference?
- What was unique about his personality that helped him on his mission? Many speak of Elie’s presence, his quiet determination, his powerful insights and immense wisdom. Have you ever met anyone who embodies these values? What are some values or qualities that make a great leader, either that Elie or another inspirational figure possess?
- Elie Wiesel was well-known as “the voice of humanity” or “the voice of the witness.” During his lifetime, he was a renowned educator and lecturer. When he spoke, everyone listened. How can hearing the voice of Elie Wiesel help you understand the impact he had on listening audiences?
- Elie was an unknown writer for many years, and wrote 65 books by the time of his passing at the age of 87. Each one tells a different story from a different angle of Jewish experience. How many of Elie Wiesel’s books have you read? Why do you think most of his books are unknown, and what can you do to make sure more people read his works?