Elie Wiesel
(pronounced ELL-ee vee-ZEL)
Background Information

- Elie Wiesel was born in Sighet, Transylvania, (now part of Romania) in 1928

- At 15, Elie and his family were deported by the Nazis to Auschwitz because they were Jewish
Elie Wiesel at 15, the age he was sent to Auschwitz.
Life after Auschwitz

- After the Americans rescued Elie, they took him, along with many other orphans, to France, where he could choose between religious or secular (non-religious) studies.

- Even though he felt like God turned his back on him during the war, Elie chose religious studies.
Elie’s entry card to Paris
Elie as writer

- After graduating, Elie became a journalist for a small French newspaper.
- He also worked as a translator and a Hebrew teacher to make ends meet.
Night

- After 10 years of silence, Elie was persuaded to recount his time at Auschwitz

- *Night*, his memoir about his experience during the Holocaust, was published in 1960.
Night

- Has been translated into more than 30 languages
- Sold more than 7 million copies
- Wiesel has written 40 books since
- Most of them are about the Holocaust, which still “haunts” him
Nobel Peace Prize

- In 1986, Elie Wiesel won the Nobel Peace Prize

- He used the Prize to create the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity
Wiesel delivered his Nobel Prize speech in Oslo on December 10, 1986.
His work

- Wiesel considers himself a “messenger of the dead among the living.”

- He considers it his mission to make sure that the Holocaust is never forgotten.

- He also works fervently to protect others from Human Rights violations.
Human Rights- Wiesel has defended:

- Israel
- Soviet Jews
- Nicaragua's Miskito Indians
- Cambodian refugees
- Victims of famine and genocide in Africa, of apartheid in South Africa, and victims of war in the former Yugoslavia.
Among many others
Present

- Wiesel lives with his wife in Connecticut
- He is 82 years old
- He is still working to promote human rights all over the world
Recent photo of Elie Wiesel