

DIALECTICAL JOURNAL

EXAMPLE

SOURCE MATERIAL Provide a direct quotation, paraphrase or summary and a parenthetical citation.	COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS Why do you find this passage interesting or important? Use <i>EVIDENCE</i> to support your idea and <i>EXPLAIN</i> how the evidence proves your claim.	PAGE NUMBER
<p>“The snow was like a carpet, very gentle, very warm” (83).</p>	<p>I can picture the men standing in the concentration camp, watching the snow blanket the ground. It is silent there. The snow-covered ground is smooth and soft. Wiesel describes the snow as being “gentle” and “warm.” This comparison is not what one would expect. Standing barefoot in the snow would be very painful The cold would cut deep into one’s feet. So why does he say it is warm? Maybe his feet are frozen, numb to the pain. Perhaps the snow provides insulation from the night’s bitter cold. The comparison creates a sense of peace, a moment without terror and fear. It is as if he is home again safe and warm.</p>	83
<p>“Death wrapped itself around me till I was stifled. It stuck to me. I felt that I could touch it. The idea of dying of no longer being, began to fascinate me. Not to exist any longer” (82).</p>	<p>It is a sad moment for Elie. He has fought to survive, but cannot fight any longer. I can’t imagine being fourteen and wanting to die. I can’t imagine being fourteen and loosing my family, my dignity, my soul. What a tragedy. In this passage, Wiesel personifies death to show the control it has over those who are suffering in the camps. In this case, Death silences Elie, overpowering his will and subduing his hope of survival. Elie is conflicted. He wants to survive. He wants to take care of his father. But he doesn’t know from much more he can take. This is important because we see that Elie has reached a breaking point. Death has come for him so many times but has failed. This time, however, Elie is too tired to fight. He has had enough. Death is offering a gift an escape from this hellish existence.</p>	