

Glossary and Vocabulary

Night

- **Vocabulary Words** are preceded by an asterisk (*) and appear in the Vocabulary Worksheets.
- Words are listed in their order of appearance.
- The definition and the part of speech are based on the way the word is used in the chapter. For other uses of the word, check a dictionary.

Parts I and II: Sighet to Buna

Hasidic of a Jewish sect of mystics that originated in Poland in the eighteenth century, which stresses joyful worship of a God believed to be present in everything

synagogue *n.*: a building used by Jewish people for religious study and worship

cabbala *n.*: an occult Jewish philosophy based on a mystical interpretation of the Scriptures

Talmud: a book of detailed expositions and interpretations of Hebrew scriptures; the writings that make up Jewish law

the destruction of the Temple: King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon captured the Jewish city of Jerusalem and destroyed its Temple in 587 B.C.

Maimonides: a twelfth-century Spanish rabbi and one of the most revered of Jewish philosophers

Gestapo: the secret police force of the German Nazis

lorries *n.*: trucks

rabbi *n.*: a scholar and teacher of Jewish law; the spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation

Zionism: formerly, a movement for reestablishment of a Jewish state; now, a movement supporting the Jewish state of Israel

***emigration** *n.*: the act of leaving one country or region to settle in another

***abstraction** *n.*: a generality; an idea or thought separated from concrete reality

billeted *v.*: lodged; used to refer to temporary lodging of military personnel in private homes or other private buildings

Passover: a Jewish holiday celebrating the deliverance of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt

treatise *n.*: a formal article or book on a particular subject

***expounding** *v.*: stating in detail; explaining

premonition *n.*: a feeling that something is about to happen, especially something bad

***edict** *n.*: an official public proclamation or order issued by an authority, such as a governmental or military authority

phylacteries *n.*: small cases holding copies of passages from Scripture worn on the forehead and left arm during weekday morning prayers.

truncheons *n.*: short, thick cudgels or clubs

the captivity of Babylon: the period from 597 B.C. to 538 B.C., during which Jerusalem was conquered by King Nebuchadnezzar and the Jewish people were sent into captivity in Babylon

Spanish Inquisition: the brutal persecution (primarily in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries) of those accused of heresy, including non-Christians such as Jews, by the Catholic Church

compatriots *n.*: fellow countrymen

Boche: a derogatory name for a German, especially a German soldier in World War I

guerrillas *n.*: small groups of soldiers, often volunteers, who make surprise attacks and raids behind enemy lines

***expulsion** *n.*: a driving out, especially by force

***pillage** *v.*: to loot; to rob of property

***constraint** *n.*: restriction, especially of feelings and behaviors

hermetically *adv.*: in an airtight way

barometer *n.*: literally, an instrument for measuring atmospheric pressure; an indicator of change

SS: abbreviation of *Schutzstaffel*; a military-style unit of the Nazi party that acted as a special police force

***incite** *v.*: to urge to act; to provoke

***unremittingly** *adv.*: constantly; without interruption

***nocturnal** *adj.*: of or happening during the night

Copyright © by Holt, Rinehart and Winston. All rights reserved.

Glossary and Vocabulary (cont.)

Night

***bestial** *adj.*: like a beast; cruel and savage

***lucidity** *n.*: clearheadedness; clarity; rational understanding

***oblivion** *n.*: state of being completely forgotten

***harangued** *v.*: scolded, especially in a noisy and bullying way

Kapos: Nazi concentration camp prisoners who were given special privileges in return for supervising other prisoners on work crews. Kapos were often common criminals and were notorious for their brutality toward fellow inmates.

***compulsory** *adj.*: required; that which must be done

***wizened** *adj.*: shriveled; dried up

***base** *adj.*: ignoble; inferior; undignified

blandishments *n.*: flattering remarks that are meant to be persuasive

***sanctity** *n.*: holiness; sacredness

numerology *n.*: an occult system, built around numbers, of foretelling the future or exploring the unknown

***reprieve** *n.*: a postponement of punishment; a temporary relief

Aryan: a term used by the Nazis to mean a Caucasian person of non-Jewish lineage

***raucous** *adj.*: loud and rough-sounding; hoarse

Part III: Buna to Buchenwald

Rosh Hashanah: the Jewish New Year, the spiritual new year whose observances include special prayers and religious rituals

***functionaries** *n.*: people who perform certain expected duties, especially official functions

benediction *n.*: formal blessing; act of calling upon God during a religious service

***implored** *v.*: begged; pleaded sincerely

***lamentation** *n.*: an expression of grief or sadness

***countenance** *n.*: face or features of the face

Yom Kippur: the holiest day in the Jewish calendar, the Day of Atonement, a day of fasting and prayer for forgiveness

Achtung: German for "attention"

***interminable** *adj.*: endless or seeming to be endless

***emaciated** *adj.*: abnormally thin, especially due to starvation or disease

***meager** *adj.*: of small quantity; not adequate

crucible *n.*: container or vessel made of a substance that can withstand extreme heat; a severe trial or test

***inconsiderable** *adj.*: unimportant; small

sage *n.*: a person who is very wise, especially one whose great wisdom is the result of age and experience

Calvary: literally, the place near Jerusalem where Jesus was crucified; here, used metaphorically to mean an experience of intense agony or grief

***derision** *n.*: scorn; ridicule

dysentery *n.*: intestinal inflammation causing abdominal pain and severe diarrhea; often fatal if left untreated in the very young or old, or in those who are weakened by hunger or other disease

Red Army: the regular army of the former Soviet Union

***annihilate** *v.*: destroy completely; exterminate

***summarily** *adv.*: promptly and without formality

mountebanks *n.*: fakes; charlatans or tricksters

knell *n.*: the sound of a bell, especially of a bell rung slowly at a funeral; often used metaphorically to mean a bad omen

***indeterminate** *adj.*: indefinite; vague; subtle

***stupefied** *adj.*: stunned; amazed

***privations** *n.*: hardships; lack of necessities of everyday life

***encumbrance** *n.*: burden; obstacle

***semblance** *n.*: appearance; resemblance

***apathy** *n.*: lack of interest or emotion; indifference

***vigilance** *n.*: the state of watchfulness; alertness, especially to danger

***appeasing** *v.*: satisfying; relieving

***inert** *adj.*: motionless; lacking the ability to move or act

visionary *adj.*: having the nature of a vision; unreal