Night

Responding to Text Question

Choose one passage from within *Night* and explain how it reveals the darker side of the human condition. What circumstances in the memoir enable this darker side to emerge? /5

1. Think of an event that happened in the novel
2. Explain what “darker side” of human nature is shown by this event
3. Explain what events happened that made this “darker” side come out

In the novel, *Night*, the darker side of human nature is revealed when one of the prisoners murders his father over a piece of bread (**Statement**). Before the Jews were transported on the train to Buchenwald, one prisoner managed to save a piece of bread from the camp, which he was planning to share with his son. During the train ride, his son attacked, and murdered his own father over a simple piece of bread **(eXample).** In doing this, he committed the ultimate acts of selfishness and cruelty – both parts of the darker side of the human condition. Under regular circumstances, this might not have happened – however, during the death march and the train ride, the Jews experienced very poor conditions. They lacked warmth, water, and especially food. These conditions enabled the son to disregard his relationship with his father, and the love that he felt for him, because of his desperation to survive **(Explanation)**. Maslov’s Heirarchy of needs states that people need access to basic necessities before they can have healthy relationships with themselves or others. It seems that the darkest sides of the human condition appear when humans are deprived of those basic necessities in Maslov’s heirachy **(whY does your answer matter/Your connection)**.