**The Perils of Indifference**

**Predict & Reflect**

**Humanity? Part I:**

1) What is your current definition of humanity? Inhumanity? Be as specific as possible.

* Insert answer here

**Peril –** serious and immediate danger

* Ex. *He faced the peril of falling rocks* (dictionary.com)

**Indifference** – lack of interest, concern or sympathy

* Eg. *We were shocked at their difference towards poverty* (dictionary.com)

After thinking about the definitions above, as well as your prior knowledge about the Holocaust and other human rights issues, what do you **predict** that “The Perils of Indifference” will be about?

* Insert answer here

Choose **three** of the following passages from “The Perils of Indifference,” then predict how you think Elie Weisel will use each passage to voice his concerns about indifference.

“We are on the threshold of a new century”

* Insert prediction here

“[We were] abandoned by humanity”

* Insert prediction here

“Better an unjust God than an indifferent one”

* Insert prediction here

“They were dead and did not know it”

* Insert prediction here

“If they knew, we thought, surely those leaders would have moved heaven and earth to intervene”

* Insert prediction here

“But this time, the world was not silent”

* Insert prediction here

**Choose three of the following passages from “The Perils of Indifference,” then:**

1. Complete the “Before Listening” column of the chart by recording whether you **agree**/**disagree** with each statement, along with a brief explanation of why you chose your answer
2. Complete the “After Listening” column of the chart by recording whether you **agree/disagree** with each statement, along with a brief explanation of Wiesel’s opinion on the matter

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Passage** | **Before Listening** | **After Listening** |
| Indifference is a virtue | Response? | Response? |
| “Indifference can be tempting” | Response? | Response? |
| “Indifference… is more dangerous than anger and hatred” | Response? | Response? |
| “Indifference is always the friend of the enemy” | Response? | Response? |
| “Suffering is what makes the human being inhuman” | Response? | Response? |
| “In denying [the victims’] humanity we betray our own” | Response? | Response? |

**After Listening:**

In the final paragraph of his speech, Wiesel uses figurative language to reflect on the past and the future of humanity:

*“And so, once again, I think of the young Jewish boy from the Carpathian Mountains. He has accompanied the old man I have become throughout these years of quest and struggle. And together we walk towards the new millennium, carried by profound fear and extraordinary hope.”*

**Using the passage above, respond (in short-answer format) to the following questions:**

1) Who is the “young Jewish boy from the Carpathian Mountains”?

* Insert answer here

2) How do you think he has influenced Wiesel’s current outlook on the future?

* Insert answer here

3) Why does Weisel carry both “profound fear” and “extraordinary hope”?

* Insert answer here

**Humanity? Part II:**

1) What is Wiesel’s definition of humanity (note: it might be a good idea to use his definition of inhumanity to help you explain)? Use evidence from his speech to support your answer.

* Insert answer here

2) Has thinking about his definition changed your own definition in any way? Explain.

* Insert answer here