



Wiesel, Elie

Elie Wiesel was born in Sighet, Romania, in 1928. At 16 he was imprisoned in Nazi concentration camps at Auschwitz and Buchenwald, where his family perished. After the war, he studied at the Sorbonne. In the 1950s he was a correspondent for Israeli, American, and French newspapers. After living in France and Israel, he settled in the United States in 1956 and became a citizen in 1963. Wiesel's novels, plays, retellings of biblical stories, and collections of Hasidic tales have focused on the importance of keeping the memory of the Holocaust alive. The autobiographical novel *Night* (1958) recounts the horrors he witnessed as a death camp inmate; it and two subsequent novels about concentration camp survivors, *Dawn* (1960) and *The Accident* (1961), comprise the Night Trilogy. Several of his works deal with prophetic and mystical figures in the Bible and in Jewish tradition, especially Hasidism. These include *Souls on Fire* (1970), *Messengers of God* (1976), *Four Hasidic Masters and Their Struggle Against Melancholy* (1978), *Somewhere a Master* (1982), and *Sages and Dreamers* (1991). He won the 1986 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts on behalf of oppressed peoples. See his memoirs in two volumes: *All Rivers Run to the Sea* (1995); *And the Sea Is Never Full* (1999).