

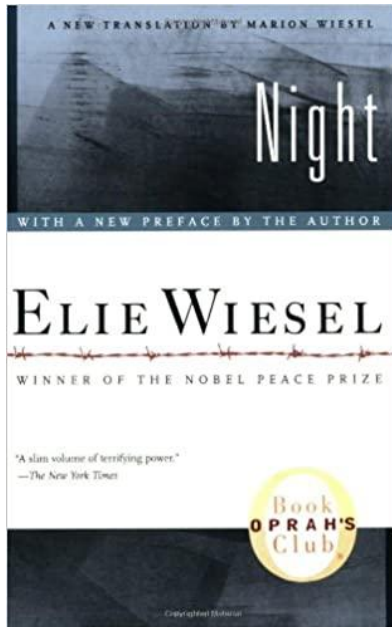
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# Annotated Bibliography

Embracing One's Identity



Wiesel, Elie, and Marion Wiesel. *Night*. New York: Hill and Wang, 2006.



Elizer's identity changes over the course of this novel, and throughout his experience in a concentration camp during World War II. Before he and his family are forcefully placed in Auschwitz-Birkenau, Wiesel was a 15 year old boy who was Jewish. After he and his family arrives, a large portion of his identity is immediately stripped away when his mother and youngest sister are killed. As the story progresses we gradually see the other pieces of who he is becoming lost: he had no name, no clothes to differentiate himself from the other jews, and eventually lost his faith. The longer he was held in these horrendous conditions the more he molded into the identity the Nazi's were imposing on him. This is very similar to Chanie's experience in *Secret Path*, where his identity was also stolen from him.

**"Scaachi Koul". "Can TV Make Us Not Hate Ourselves?" *BuzzFeed*, BuzzFeed, 14 Oct. 2015, [www.buzzfeed.com/scaachikoul/can-tv-make-us-not-hate-ourselves](http://www.buzzfeed.com/scaachikoul/can-tv-make-us-not-hate-ourselves).**



The theme of identity is explained in this essay through Koul's opinion of how the media decides to portray certain ethnicities. The culture we were born into is what shapes a large part of our identity. However, the way television represents different ethnic backgrounds can make people feel negatively about that part of who they are. For Koul, she writes about how "the whole world felt white when she was younger" because of the lack of representation her Indian culture had in the media. This subliminally made her feel ashamed of that part of her identity, which would bleed into other parts of her life. However through self growth and realization, she began to embrace that piece of who she was. Her essay touches on the theme of identity by challenging the way different cultures are presented to us in television.

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## Gladwell, Malcolm, host. “Carlos Can’t Remember.” *Revisionist History*, Pushkin Industries, 6 Jul. 2016.

Throughout the course of the podcast, Gladwell presented the idea that there is a certain amount of your identity that is very difficult to change, even if you aren’t proud of it. Carlos’ life and future is defined by his current identity. Although it wasn’t something he chose, Carlos grew up in poverty and his only way of capitalizing off his life was through his academics and somehow getting into a good school. Although Carlos can’t change the fact that he was put into foster care or his mom is in prison, with the help of the YES program, he was able to turn some of the previously irreversible parts of his identity around, so he can provide himself with a future. Gladwell also expresses how many other kids are in the same position as Carlos that don’t have access to ‘a way out’ of their situation. These people are then marginalized due to their identities, and are unable to be successful.



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**Walker, Alice. "Everyday Use." *In Love & Trouble: Stories of Black Women*, by Alice Walker, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers, 1974.**



The theme of black identity was very prevalent in this short story. As we read about Mama and her two daughters, we get a sense of how they embrace their racial identity. For Mama, who has been working in a rural farm all her life, she has a set idea of what her identity is: composed of her family, rich heritage, and the work she does. However, her daughter Dee invited in a whole new perspective as she began going to school and developing a life completely different to that of her mother and sister. She began to distance herself from her family and reject aspects of her past such as the quilts and the name she grew up with. Although Dee was embracing certain aspects of the identity of black people, she began to think less of her family's identity, which celebrates a different side of the culture.

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## Downie, Gordon, and Jeff Lemire. *Secret Path*. Simon & Schuster, 2019.



The theme of identity is present in *Secret Path* as we see how Chanie's is changed from before he was forced to go into a residential school, and escaped. The person who he was before, which is shown through brightly coloured and happy images, was abruptly taken from him when he was taken to a residential school. His collective identity, which he shared with other indigenous peoples were deemed inadequate and were forcefully shifted to assimilate to European culture. Everything he knew was gone: his language, families, clothing, and even hair. When he escaped, it showed that the torture he went through in the school did not change who he was. He risked (and lost) his life in an attempt to find who he was before.