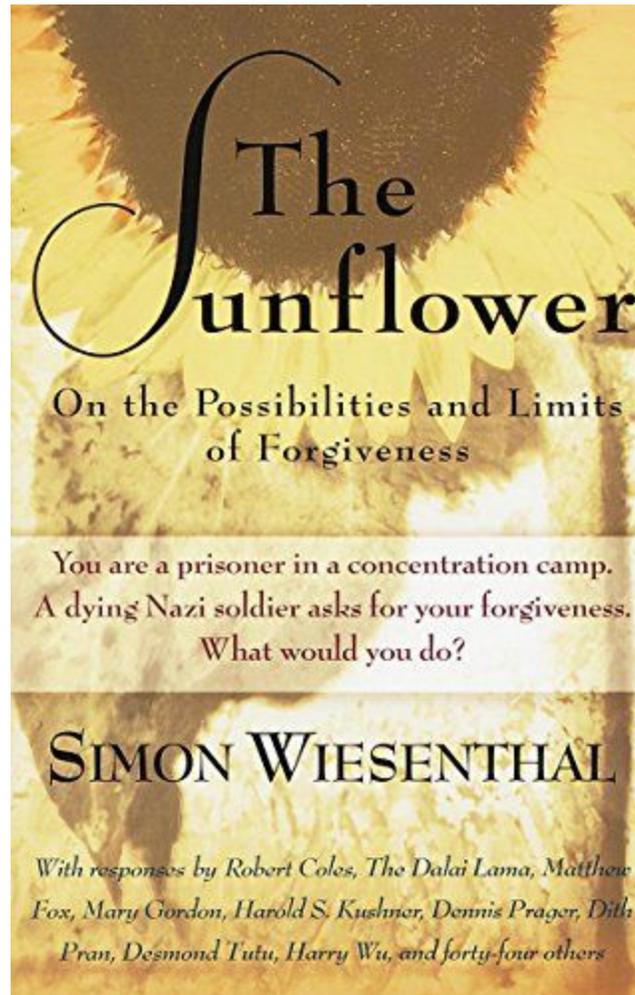


Summer Reading Assignment 2020 - *The Sunflower* by Simon Wiesenthal



There are two parts to this story. You only need to read Part 1.

- As you read Part 1 of *The Sunflower* answer the questions according to each section.
  - Your responses need to be labeled (ex. Part 1), numbered, typed in complete sentences, and 1-3 sentences in length.
  - Print out your responses and be ready to turn them into your English teacher, Ms. Cagigas, when the school year begins.
  - If you have any questions please email Ms. Cagigas at [ms.cagigas@shhsla.org](mailto:ms.cagigas@shhsla.org)
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## ***The Sunflower* by Simon Wiesenthal**

### **Reading Questions**

#### **Part I (pp. 9-30)**

1. List and describe each of the following characters: Arthur, Josek, and Simon.
2. Describe the Jewish prisoners' living conditions.
3. What are Simon's attitudes toward his God and his situation within the work camp?
4. Who are the "askaris"? Describe their personalities and attitudes toward the Jews.
5. For Simon, what do the sunflowers represent? Answers must get at the symbolic significance of the sunflower.
6. What memories does Simon have as the Red Cross nurse leads him through the "Reserve Hospital"? To whom does she lead Simon?

#### **Part II (pp. 31-58)**

1. What happened to Simon's mother? What was more than likely her final destination?
2. Describe the dying man (name, age, occupation, parents, childhood, religion, NAZI involvement, etc.).
3. Why has the dying man summoned Simon to the side of his deathbed?
4. What are some of the thoughts, feelings, and/or questions running through Simon's mind as the dying man begins his story?
5. What horrendous crime(s) does Karl confess to Simon?
6. What accident put the SS soldier in the hospital? What caused him to hesitate in the German assault on Tagamog?
7. What does the SS soldier ask of Simon? Why?
8. What is Simon's "answer" to Karl's final request?

#### **Part III (pp. 58-78)**

1. How did the Nazis make room for newly arrived prisoners? What was the ultimate Nazi plan?
2. Where did prisoners await their certain execution? Describe.
3. What questions plague Simon about the prisoners in the "pipe" and the SS man?
4. What does he believe would be Arthur, the cynic's, reaction? What is Arthur's initial reaction?
5. What is Adam's initial reaction? What is Adam's family history?
6. What is Josek's initial response? What is Simon's counter-argument to this response?
7. What has happened to the SS man? What does the nurse give Simon? What is his reaction?

#### **Part IV (pp. 78-85)**

1. How many years have passed? What has happened to all the people Simon knew at the camp?
2. According to Simon, what was planned for the prisoners as soon as the Americans approached the camp?
3. What image(s) haunt Simon?
4. Who is the new prisoner? Why does no one at Mathausen ask about anyone else's past?

#### **Part V (pp. 85-96)**

1. What happens to Simon? How does Simon feel about “restarting” his life?
2. In 1946, where did Simon and his wife go? What does Simon see there? What does it remind him?
3. While on his way to Munich, what does Simon decide to do? Why?
4. What lie does Simon make up about how he knew her “good” son?
5. With what consolation did he want to leave her?
6. Why did Simon not tell this woman the truth about her son?

**Part VI (pp. 96-99)**

1. Even years later, how do the thoughts of Karl still haunt Simon?
3. What does Simon recall about the Nazis during their trial at Stuttgart?
4. According to Simon, what does the world today demand?
5. “You, who have just read this sad and tragic episode in my life, can mentally change places with me and ask yourself the same question, ‘What would I have done?’” What is your initial response to this overwhelming question?