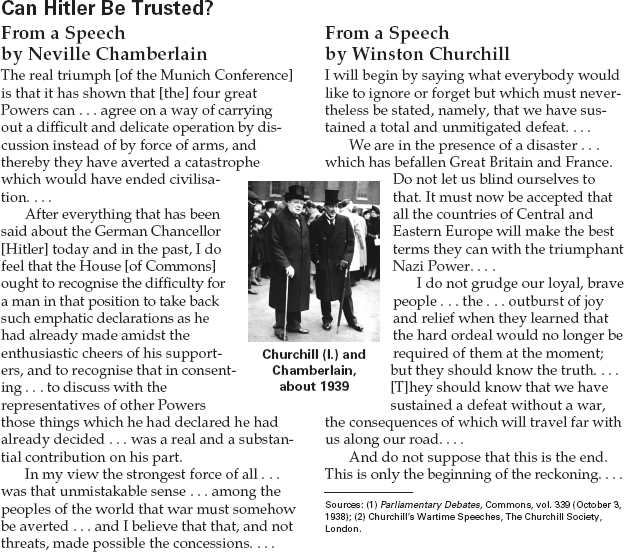
Name Class Date

72-1

In September 1938, Neville Chamberlain, Britain’s prime minister, met with the leaders of  
Germany, Italy, and France. He wanted to find a peaceful compromise with Hitler. The resulting  
document, the Munich Agreement, gave Hitler everything he asked for. While Chamberlain felt  
he had achieved “peace for our time,” some people, like future prime minister Winston Churchill,  
were unhappy with the agreement. ♦ *As you read the speeches, keep in mind each man’s response to the  
thought of war with Germany. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, answer the questions that follow.*



ques

**1.** What do you think the other leaders hoped  
to accomplish by giving in to Hitler?

**2.** Why does Winston Churchill consider this  
decision a disaster?

**3. Analyze Information** Which man do you feel  
made the stronger argument? Explain.

Name Class Date

74-1

Elie Wiesel and his family were Jews living in Hungary when the Germans invaded in 1944. The  
Wiesels were sent to the concentration camp at Auschwitz when Wiesel was 15. After the war,  
Wiesel waited ten years before writing about his experiences in *Night.* In the excerpt, Wiesel  
recalls his first night in the camp. ♦ *As you read, notice how people reacted to the horrors of the concen-  
tration camp. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, answer the questions that follow.*

**From *Night* by Elie Wiesel**

The barrack we had been assigned to was very  
long. On the roof, a few bluish skylights. I  
thought: This is what the antechamber of hell  
must look like. So many crazed men, so much  
shouting, so much brutality.

Dozens of inmates were there to receive us,  
sticks in hand, striking anywhere, anyone,  
without reason. The orders came:

“Strip! Hurry up! *Raus!* Hold on  
only to your belt and your shoes . . .”

Our clothes were to be thrown  
on the floor at the back of the bar-  
rack. There was a pile there already.  
New suits, old ones, torn overcoats,  
rags. For us it meant true equality;  
nakedness. We trembled in the cold.

A few SS officers wandered  
through the room, looking for strong  
men. If vigor was that appreci-  
ated, perhaps one should try to  
appear sturdy? My father thought  
the opposite. Better not to draw attention. (We  
later found out that he had been right. Those   
who were selected that day were incorporated  
into the Sonder-Kommando, the Kommando  
working in the crematoria. Bela Katz, the son of  
an important merchant in my town, had  
arrived in Birkenau with the first transport, one  
week ahead of us. When he found out that we  
were there, he succeeded in slipping us a note.  
He told us that having been chosen because of  
his strength, he had been forced to place his  
father’s own body into the furnace.)

The blows continued to rain on us.:

“To the barber!”  
Belt and shoes in hand. I let myself be dragged  
along to the barbers. Their  
clippers tore out our hair, shaved every hair on  
our bodies. My head was buzzing; the same  
thought surfacing over and over: not to be sep-  
arated from my father.

Freed from the barbers’ clutches,  
we began to wander about the  
crowd, finding friends, acquain-  
tances. Every encounter filled us  
with joy—yes, joy: Thank God! You  
are still alive!

Some were crying. They used  
whatever strength they had left to  
cry. Why had they let themselves be  
brought here? Why didn’t they die  
in their beds? Their words were  
interspersed with sobs.

Suddenly someone threw his  
arms around me in a hug: Yehiel, the Sigheter  
rebbe’s brother. He was weeping bitterly. I  
thought he was crying with joy at still being  
alive.

“Don’t cry, Yehiel.” I said. “Don’t waste  
your tears . . .”

“Not cry? We’re on the threshold of death.  
Soon, we shall be inside . . . Do you under-  
stand? Inside. How could I not cry?”

I watched darkness fade through the  
bluish skylights in the roof. I no longer was  
afraid. I was overcome by fatigue.

ques

**1.** What are the first things that happened to the  
men in camp?

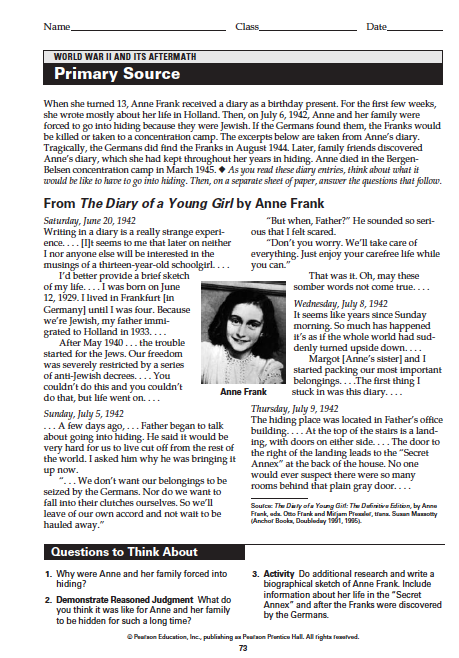
**2. Identify Central Issues** What evidence can  
you find that Wiesel and the others still

retained their humanity in the face of brutal  
treatment?

**3. Determine Relevance** Why is it important for  
people today to read books like *Night?*

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**74**

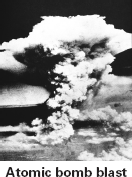


Name Class Date

75-1

On August 6, 1945, an American plane dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of  
Hiroshima. John Hersey’s classic book *Hiroshima*, written in 1946, vividly captures the aftermath  
of the bombing. Hersey interviewed six residents who survived the blast, and in the book he  
recounts their experiences. ♦ *As you read this excerpt, think about the experience of people living in  
Hiroshima when the United States dropped the bomb. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, answer the ques-  
tions that follow.*

**From *Hiroshima* by John Hersey**

As Mrs. Nakamura stood watching her neigh-  
bor, everything flashed whiter than any white  
she had ever seen. . . . She had taken a single  
step (the house was 1,350 yards, or three-  
quarters of a mile, from the center  
of the explosion) when something  
picked her up and she seemed to fly  
into the next room . . . pursued by  
parts of her house.

. . . The debris did not cover her  
deeply. She rose up and freed her-  
self. She heard a child cry. . . . As  
Mrs. Nakamura started frantically  
to claw her way toward the baby,  
she could see or hear nothing of her  
other children. . . .

[Dr. Terufumi Sasaki, the Red Cross  
Hospital surgeon] . . . was one step beyond an  
open window when the light of the bomb was  
reflected, like a gigantic photographic flash, in  
the corridor. . . . Just then (the building was  
1,650 yards from the center), the blast ripped  
through the hospital. The glasses he was  
wearing flew off his face . . . his Japanese slip-  
pers zipped out from under his feet—but

otherwise, thanks to where he stood, he was  
untouched.

. . . The hospital was in horrible confusion  
. . . windows had blown in and cut people,  
blood was spattered, . . . many of  
the patients were running about  
screaming, many more lay dead. . . .  
Dr. Sasaki found himself the only  
doctor in the hospital who was  
unhurt.

Dr. Sasaki, who believed that  
the enemy had hit only the build-  
ing he was in, . . . got bandages and  
began to bind the wounds of those  
inside the hospital; while outside,  
all over Hiroshima, maimed and  
dying citizens turned their unsteady steps  
toward the Red Cross Hospital. . . .

. . . Mr. Tanimoto saw an astonishing pan-  
orama. . . . as much of Hiroshima as he could  
see through the clouded air was giving off a  
thick, dreadful miasma [poisonous fog]. . . .

He had thought of his wife and baby, his  
church, his home, his parishioners, all of them  
down in that awful murk. Once more he  
began to run in fear—toward the city.

ques

**1.** What was Mrs. Nakamura’s first response  
when the atomic bomb went off?

**2.** How did Dr. Sasaki respond to the crisis?  
What did Mr. Tanimoto do?

**3. Demonstrate Reasoned Judgment** When  
President Truman decided to use the atomic  
bomb against the Japanese, no one knew

exactly what the effects would be. Knowing  
what we know now, do you think the atomic  
bomb should ever be used again? Why or  
why not?

**4. Activity** Research the bombing of Hiroshima.  
Then, write a poem or story to represent the  
effects of the bomb on the city and people.

copynew

**75**

Name Class Date

U4-076-T-B

Harry Truman became president of the United States as World War II was ending. His decisions  
helped shape the political and economic realities of the world in the second half of the twentieth  
century. ♦ *As you read, think about the personality traits that helped Truman act decisively as presi-  
dent. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, answer the questions that follow.*

**Harry Truman (1884–1972)**

Harry Truman was born in Missouri on May  
8, 1884. He was the oldest of three children.  
As a child, Truman was a good student, and  
he grew up with a love for reading and music.

After graduating from high school in  
1901, Truman briefly attended busi-  
ness school. He also worked as a  
bank clerk and on the family farm.

In 1917, the United States  
entered World War I, and 32-year-  
old Truman volunteered to join the  
army. He served in France as the  
captain of a U.S. field artillery unit  
and won the loyalty of the men  
under his command with his lead-  
ership abilities. He returned home  
in 1919, married his childhood  
sweetheart, Bess, and opened a men’s clothing  
store. When the business failed, a friend  
encouraged Truman to enter politics. After  
winning some local elections, he won a U.S.  
Senate seat in 1934.

During Truman’s second term in the  
Senate, he gained national recognition for  
chairing a committee that looked into waste  
and fraud in the U.S. military. It was this  
work that brought him to the attention of  
President Franklin Roosevelt, who asked  
Truman to run as vice president in the 1944  
election. When Roosevelt died 83 days into  
his fourth term, Truman became president.  
He was sworn in on April 12, 1945.

31-1

Truman oversaw the end of World War II  
in Europe. While in Europe conferring with  
the Allies, Truman received word of a suc-  
cessful atomic bomb test by U.S. scientists.  
Turning his attention to the war with Japan,  
he demanded that the Japanese  
surrender. When Japan refused,  
Truman ordered the atomic bomb  
be dropped on the Japanese cities  
of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.  
Shortly after the second bombing,  
Japan surrendered.

Truman soon had to face the  
beginning of the Cold War struggle  
with the Soviet Union. In 1947, he  
proclaimed the Truman Doctrine,  
stating that the United States would  
oppose Soviet aggression anywhere around  
the globe.

Many political observers thought Truman  
was going to lose his 1948 bid for reelection,  
but Truman’s cross-country campaign fueled  
an upset victory. Truman faced many chal-  
lenges through his second term in office. He  
dealt with rising tensions related to the Cold  
War, including the Soviet blockade of Berlin in  
1948 and the start of the Korean War in 1950.

After completing his second term, Truman  
continued to be active in the Democratic Party,  
and spent time campaigning for Democratic  
candidates. In the mid-1960s, Truman’s health  
declined rapidly. He died the day after  
Christmas in 1972.

**1.** What were some of the jobs Truman held  
before he became president?

**2.** What did Truman do to bring World War II to  
a close?

**3. Analyze Information** How do you think  
Truman’s personality and experience con-  
tributed to decisions he made as president?

co

**76**