Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class/Block\_\_\_\_\_

**What does it mean to commit an evil act?**

**Defining Evil and Determining Criteria**

**Scenario #1:** A man is walking down a darkened street on his way to an important meeting. He sees a woman who has been attacked and is badly injured. She obviously needs immediate help or will die, but the man is worried that her blood might ruin his new suit and also that he might be blamed for the crime. So, instead of reaching down to help her, he continues on, but promises to call an ambulance once he arrives at the meeting.

Was the man’s refusal to reach down and help an evil act? **Yes**\_\_\_\_ **No**\_\_\_\_

Why or why not?

What criteria are you using to make your decision?

* For an action to be evil, one must…

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**Scenario #2:** And so an hour or two passed. Another scream jolted us. The woman had broken free of her bonds and was shouting louder than before: "Look at the fire! Look at the flames! Flames everywhere…"

Once again, the young men bound and gagged her. When they actually struck her, people shouted their approval: "Keep her quiet! Make that madwoman shut up. She's not the only one here … "

She received several blows to the head, blows that could have been lethal. Her son was clinging desperately to her, not uttering a word. He was no longer crying. (p26)

Was the beating of Ms. Schachter an evil act? **Yes**\_\_\_\_ **No**\_\_\_\_

Why?

What criteria are you using to make your decision?

* For an action to be evil, one must…

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**Scenario #3:** He seemed to be telling the truth. Not far from us, flames, huge flames, were rising from a ditch. Something was being burned there. A truck drew close and unloaded its hold: small children. Babies! Yes, I did see this, with my own e y e s … children thrown into the flames. (Is it any wonder that ever since then, sleep tends to elude me?) (32)

Was the killing of the children an evil act? **Yes \_\_ No \_\_**

Why?

What criteria are you using to make your decision?

* For an action to be evil, one must…

**Scenario #4:** We were walking slowly. The guards were in no hurry. We were glad of it. As we were passing through some of the villages, many Germans watched us, showing no surprise. No doubt they had seen quite a few of these processions… On the way, we saw some young German girls. The guards began to tease them. The girls giggled. They allowed themselves to be kissed and tickled, bursting with laughter. They all were laughing, joking, and passing love notes to one another. At least, during all that time, we endured neither shouting nor blows.

Were the actions of the German girls evil? **Yes \_\_ No \_\_**

Why?

What criteria are you using to make your decision?

* For an action to be evil, one must…

**Scenario #5:** The dentist, a Jew from Czechoslovakia, had a face not unlike a death mask. When he opened his mouth, one had a ghastly vision of yellow, rotten teeth. Seated in the chair, I asked meekly: "What are you going to do, sir?"

"I shall remove your gold crown, that's all," he said, clearly indifferent.

Was the action of the dentist (removing gold fillings) an evil act? **Yes \_\_ No \_\_**

Why?

What criteria are you using to make your decision?

* For an action to be evil, one must…

**Scenario #6:**

"You old loafer!" he started yelling. "Is this what you call working?"

And he began beating him with an iron bar. At first, my father simply doubled over under the blows, but then he seemed to break in two like an old tree struck by lightning.

I had watched it all happening without moving. I kept silent. In fact, I thought of stealing away in order not to suffer the blows. What's more, if I felt anger at that moment, it was not directed at the Kapo but at my father. Why couldn't he have avoided Idek's wrath?

That was what life in a concentration camp had made of me…(54)

Was Elie’s condemnation of his father an evil act? **Yes \_\_ No \_\_**

Why?

What criteria are you using to make your decision?

* For an action to be evil, one must…