Conditions in the Nazi Camps

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|  | **Loss of**  **Control/Identity** | **Living Conditions:**  **Food** | **Living Conditions:**  **Filth and Disease** | **Living Conditions:**  **Hard Labor** | **Dread and Death**  **Immersion** | **Personal Responses** |
| **Gerda Weissman Klein**  *All But My Life*  pp.173-177 | many girls beaten for infraction of another.  (collective responsibility) | beatings for stolen food.  gift of raspberry.  more food for hard labor. |  | exhausting hours.  dangerous work.  physically demanding. job reassignment – could benefit or not. | fear of "penalties" - particularly physical violence.  fear of transports to Auschwitz. | friends essential for keeping up spirits/ hope.  thinking of better times & going home – imagination. |
| **Primo Levi** *Survival in Auschwitz*  pp.32-37,39-41 | status by triangle.  “masters” are other prisoners.  shaved heads & beards.  strict routine. | difference in top and bottom of the soup.  save every crumb.  bread is money. | overcrowding.  routine for lice/washing. importance of shoes | working without protection from the weather or hazardous materials.  some skilled workers. work long hours of daylight. | fear of gallows.  stealing necessary.  fear of breaking camp rules—formal & informal. | keep clean to remain human.  possess one power--to refuse consent.  Italian Jews ceased to meet—too depressing. |
| **Marion Blumenthal Lazan**  *Four Perfect Pebbles*  pp.68-73 | Blumenthals able to stay in the same camp: father & son on men’s side; mother & daughter on women’s side.  No control over destiny. | food better before 1944 when camp was for political prisoners.  food worse in 1944 as  Jews flooded into camp. | overcrowding.  lack of clean water.  inadequate latrines. killing lice.  typhus.  difficulty caring for wounded leg. |  | smell of death.  too many bodies.  tripping over dead.  roll calls.  vicious dogs. | preventing frostbite.  trying to stay clean.  kitchen job allows theft of steal food.  longing for the three B’s. |
| **Elie Wiesel**  *Night*  pp.69-80 | life controlled by bell. numbers used; no names. | father organized food. rations got smaller. | work injuries.  dangers of operations. dysentery.  dangerous in hospital. | moving heavy stones. up before dawn.  belief: work would save. | father & son separated.  “Muselman”  fear of selections. | organizing food.  bartering.  friends keep up spirits/ help survive selections.  faith/religion.  kindness of others. |
| **Jack Mandelbaum** *Surviving Hitler*  by A. Warren  pp.54-61 | uniforms.  wooden shoes—  hard to walk.  #16013—not Jack. | watery soup made with rotten, dirty vegetables.  bread made with sawdust.  constant hunger. | Aaron advised Jack to shower every morning and wash his uniform to prevent disease. | walking 3 miles to work site & back.  pulling stumps to prepare for a road.  hot—no water. | random beatings without provocation.  cruelty of *kapos*.  fear of theft. | other prisoners—esp. Aaron—looked out for Jack; explained the “rules” of the camp; shared food, advice, friendship. |

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