**“Night” (pg 456) from the *Rig Veda***



**Background/terms:**

* A **hymn** is a lyric poem, or song, that is addressed to a divine being
* The hymns of the ***Rig Veda*** are dedicated to individual Gods and goddesses
* Belief in a unifying force or **“rita”—**a cosmic order that regulates all existence
* As part of nature, human beings must conform to the **rules of nature**
* **“Night”** is dedicated to **Ratri,** the goddess of the night
* An **apostrophe** is a figure of speech in which a speaker directly addresses an absent or dead person

**Quickwrite:**

What associations do you have with the night? Jot down a few words that come to mind when you think of nighttime.

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**After reading questions:**

SOAPStone it!

* Who is the speaker?
* What is the occasion?
* Who is the audience?
* What is the purpose?
* What is the subject?
* What is the tone?

1. Which line speaks of Night as light rather than darkness?
2. In verse 6, what request does the speaker make of Night?
3. In the last verse, what offering does the speaker ask Night to “choose and accept”?
4. What positive or beneficial qualities of Night are suggested in this hymn?
5. Throughout the hymn, Night is personified as a “she.” Choose one other detail that personifies night.
6. Find 2 similes in the hymn and explain what is being compared in each.