

STUDENT WORKBOOK

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas

By John Boyne



Junior
Certificate
School
Programme

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas

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Chapter Questions

Chapter 1

1. How do we know Bruno's family are rich?
2. What is Maria (the maid) doing as the story begins?
3. How does his mother look on this occasion?
4. Why do the family have to move?
5. Why does Bruno not want to leave?
6. What kind of person do you imagine Bruno's father to be?

Activity

Discussion:

What are your favourite things about your home and local area?

Chapter 2

1. Describe Bruno's old house in Berlin.
2. Describe Bruno's new house.
3. What does Bruno think of his father's job?
4. Describe the young soldier Bruno sees on the stairs.

Activity

Draw a picture of the young soldier Bruno sees on the stairs.

Chapter 3

1. Describe Gretel, Bruno's sister.
2. How well do Bruno and Gretel get on?
3. What is the name of their new house?

Activity

Use three adjectives (describing words) to describe the relationship Bruno has with his sister Gretel.

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Chapter 4

1. Describe the view from Bruno's window.
2. Where does Gretel think they are? Explain your answer.
3. Describe the people in the camp.

Activities

1. Diary entry:

Imagine you are Bruno. Write a diary entry, explaining how you are feeling right now.

2. Draw a picture of the view of the camp and the people that Bruno sees from his window.

Chapter 5

1. Was Bruno's mother happy to leave Berlin? Explain.
2. Describe Bruno's father.
3. Why does Bruno go in to his father's study?
4. What is really going on in the story, that Bruno is not aware of?

Activity

Research:

Find out three facts about concentration camps during World War 2.

Chapter 6

1. How well is Bruno settling in to his new home?
2. Describe Maria, the family's maid.
3. Does Bruno have a lot of respect for his father? Explain.
4. 'Bruno and Gretel treat Maria differently.' Explain this statement.
5. How do Bruno and Gretel treat their father differently?

Activity

We learn about characters by hearing how they act and what they say. What are your impressions of Bruno's father so far?

Chapter 7

1. Describe the one person Bruno knew to be mad.
2. What does Bruno do to entertain himself?
3. What is Bruno's opinion of Lieutenant Kotler?
4. How does Gretel act around Lieutenant Kotler?
5. How does Lieutenant Kotler treat Bruno?

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6. How does Lieutenant Kotler treat Pavel?
7. How does Bruno feel when Lieutenant Kotler treats Pavel like this?
8. How does Bruno injure himself?
9. Describe Bruno's injury.
10. Who looks after him and what do they do?
11. What do we learn about Pavel's past?
12. Why does Pavel's behaviour change when Bruno's mother arrives?
13. How does she treat Pavel?
14. Why won't she tell Bruno's father what happened?
15. Does Bruno understand the situation here at Out-With? Explain.

Activities

1. Re-tell this story from Pavel's point of view.
2. Dictionary Work:
Look up the following words in the dictionary and explain what they mean – inequality, racism, prejudice.

Chapter 8

1. Describe Bruno's grandparents.
2. How did his grandmother spend time with the children?
3. Why was Bruno's grandmother disappointed when Bruno's father became Commandant? Use quotation in your answer.

Chapter 9

1. What change happens at Out-With?
2. Describe Herr Liszt.
3. What makes Bruno decide to go exploring?
4. What does Bruno see happening in the camp?
5. What does Bruno try not to think about as he goes exploring?

Activity

Speaking and Listening:

Bruno does not fully understand life at the camp. Talk to your partner about what you think is going on.

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Chapter 10

1. Describe Bruno's walk along the fence.
2. Why does he almost turn back?
3. Describe the boy Bruno meets.
4. What are Bruno's first impressions of the boy?
5. What is unusual about Shmuel's birthday?
6. Does Shmuel have many friends?
7. What does Bruno say about Germany and how does he feel once he says it?
8. What does Bruno discover about Out-With?
9. What does Shmuel say about where he comes from?

Activity

List ways the boys are similar to each other and ways they are different.

<i>Similarities</i>	<i>Differences</i>

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Chapter 11

1. How did Bruno's mother react when his father said the Fury was coming to dinner?
2. How do the children dress for this important dinner?
3. What rules apply during the Fury's visit?
4. Describe the Fury.
5. What does Bruno think of the Fury's manners?
6. Describe Eva.

Activity

Dictionary Work:

Look up the following words in your dictionary: commandant, varnished, commented, enunciating, precisely, deliberately, introduction, resolved, fragment. Write down their meanings and use them in sentences to show you understand them.

Chapter 12

1. Where did Shmuel live before the camp?
2. How did life change for Shmuel before he was brought to the camp?
3. What different attitudes do the boys have to the armbands?
4. "Bruno opened his mouth to contradict him." Why doesn't Bruno believe Shmuel's story?
5. What happened when "the soldiers all came with huge trucks"?
6. What differences do you notice between Bruno and Shmuel?
7. Why does Bruno decide not to tell his family about his new friend?

Chapter 13

1. Why isn't Bruno feeling quite so unhappy about his new life?
2. What does Bruno ask Maria about Pavel?
3. What jobs do the boys want when they grow up?
4. What is Shmuel's opinion of soldiers?
5. Describe the friendship the boys have.
6. How does Bruno feel when he looks at Pavel?
7. How has Pavel's appearance changed since Bruno met him?
8. What complaints does Bruno make about Herr Liszt?
9. What mistake does Lieutenant Kotler make in conversation?
10. What view does Bruno's father have of people who left Germany in 1938?
11. "What happened then was both unexpected and extremely unpleasant."
What happens when Pavel spills wine on Kotler?

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12. What does Bruno decide he had better do in future?

Activity

Debate:

Do people with power ever abuse their power? Discuss.

Chapter 14

1. When Shmuel has a black eye, what does Bruno think happened?
2. What does Bruno ask Shmuel every day?
3. What does Bruno have to say about the striped pyjamas?
4. What does Bruno let slip to Gretel?
5. How does he try to get out of it?
6. Why is Gretel sarcastic to Bruno?
7. What did Shmuel say about his Grandfather?

Activity

Point of view:

Different people see things differently. Imagine you are Gretel. What is your opinion of your brother Bruno?

Chapter 15

1. What prevented Bruno and Shmuel from seeing each other?
2. Why is Bruno worried about his friend?
3. Bruno's mother is spending a lot of time with Lieutenant Kotler. What examples of this are we given?
4. What reasons does Bruno have for disliking Lieutenant Kotler?
5. How does Lieutenant Kotler treat Bruno?
6. Why is Shmuel in the kitchen?
7. Describe Shmuel's hand.
8. Why is Shmuel afraid to eat the chicken?
9. Why does Bruno deny knowing Shmuel?
10. What would you have done in Bruno's position?

Activity

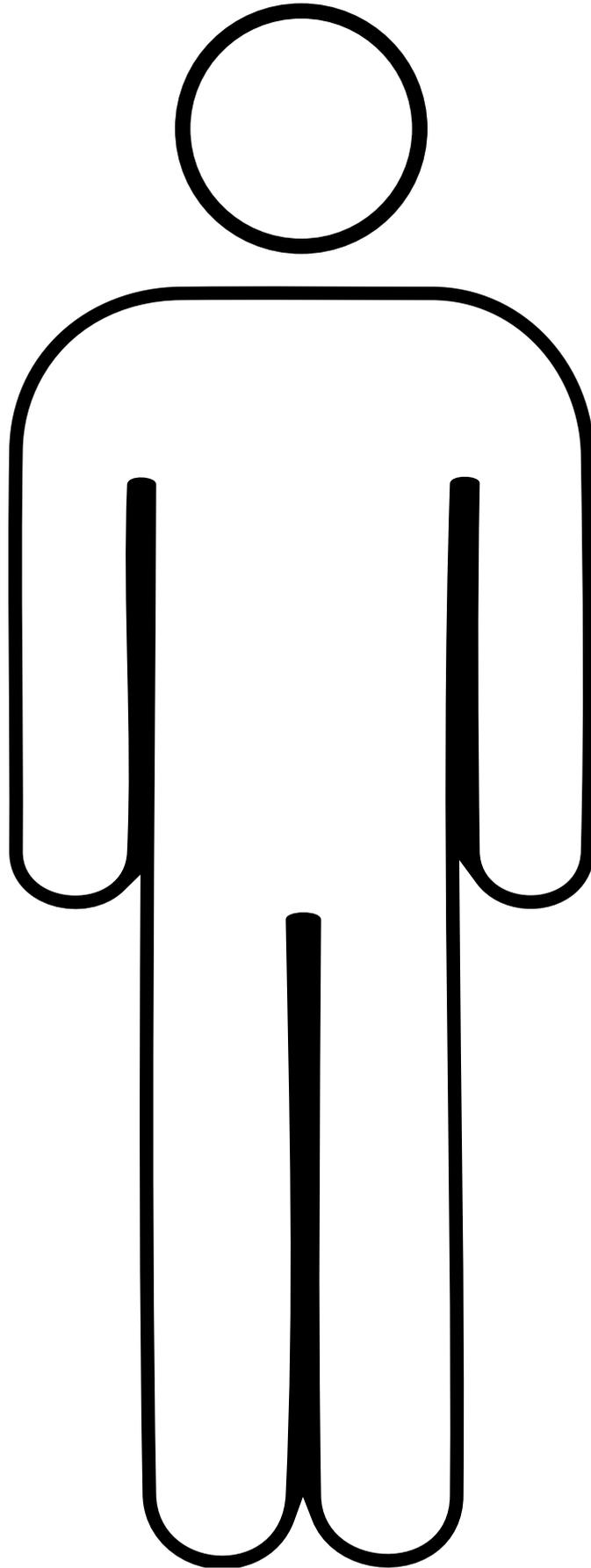
1. Diary Entry:

Imagine you are Shmuel. Write in your diary describing how you feel about the day's events.

2. Roll on the wall:

Pretend this outline is Bruno. Write everything he is feeling inside the outline. Write everything that is going on in his life outside the outline.

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Chapter 16

1. How do we know a lot of time has passed since the novel began?
2. What has happened to Lieutenant Kotler?
3. Why does Bruno think his friendship with Shmuel is strange?
4. How has Gretel changed since the story began?
5. What does Bruno ask Gretel?
6. What explanation does Gretel give?
7. Why does Gretel scream and how do their parents deal with this problem?

Chapter 17

1. Bruno says his mother is unhappy at Out-With. Why do you think this is?
2. What do Bruno's parents argue about?
3. How is his mother behaving?
4. What decision does Bruno's father make?

Activity

Dialogue:

Write the conversation that took place between Bruno's parents during the argument.

Chapter 18

1. Why wasn't Shmuel at the fence for two days?
2. What regrets do the boys have about their friendship?
3. What plan do the boys make?

Activity

Personal Reflection:

Write about what you consider it means to be a good friend.

Chapter 19

1. What almost ruins their plan on Friday?
2. What does Bruno do with his clothes?
3. How do the boys feel when they're finally on the same side of the fence?
4. How did Bruno imagine the camp?
5. What does Bruno see in the camp?
6. What two types of people are there in the camp?
7. What does Bruno tell Shmuel after they march?
8. What happens to the boys at the end of the chapter?

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Chapter 20

1. What do Bruno's family do after he disappears?
2. Do you like the ending? Explain.
3. How do you feel at the end? Explain.
4. Do you feel sorry for Bruno's father? Explain.

Activities

1. Your opinion:

If you could change this ending, what would you change about it? Explain your answer.

2. Point of view:

Imagine you are Bruno's father. Write about any regrets you might have at the end of the story.

3. News Report:

Imagine you are a news reporter during World War 2. Write a newspaper article about events at Auschwitz.

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W G H D W I S P W S Y M N L E
G E T M G T U V W I M O A E P
T E J G R G A I D K I B X U O
D E A I H F N F E T G H H M M
J C P P E G Q G A D L O C H M
O E L A H M A R H Q D L Z S U
D B F I Y L T C O T R O B A Q
O F R I E N D S H I P C V O R
S T T T E U A B N E Q A R F W
I L E C T Y T M R J W U Z V D
L R N K O T L E R U U S P A A
G O O K V A U D N E N T A I K
C S A M A J Y P X A G O V F A
P M A C V O Y B L Q N A E G S
O I D V F S H Y S D U T L J P

BRUNO
CAMP
CONCENTRATION
FRIENDSHIP
GERMANY
GRETEL
HOLOCAUST

JEW
KOTLER
LIEUTENANT
PAVEL
PYJAMAS
SHMUEL
STRIPED
SWING

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Reflections on the Novel

Write about the ending of the novel “The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas”. You should mention the following points:

- What happens in the end?
- Were you surprised by the ending? Why/why not?
- How have characters changed from the beginning to the end of the novel?
- If you were writing the next chapter, what would happen next?
- Is there a hero in this story? If so, what makes him/her a hero?
- Is there a villain in this story? Explain your answer.

Exam Preparation Questions

1. Discuss an interesting character from the novel.
2. Write about the relationship between two characters in the story. How do they treat each other in the story?
3. Describe a sad or worrying event that happens in the story. Explain how well the writer describes this sadness or worry.
4. What is the most exciting part of the novel? How did the writer make that part of the story exciting?
5. Describe in detail the beginning of the novel. You may refer to where it is set, any incidents that happen and characters. Do you think it was a good beginning? Why/why not?
6. Discuss a friendship that develops or fails between two people in the novel. Why do you think this friendship develops or fails?
7. Describe your favourite moment in the novel and say why it is your favourite.
8. Who is your favourite character in the novel? Explain why he/she is your favourite.
9. If you were making a film of this story, what actors would you choose to play the main characters? Give reasons for your answer.

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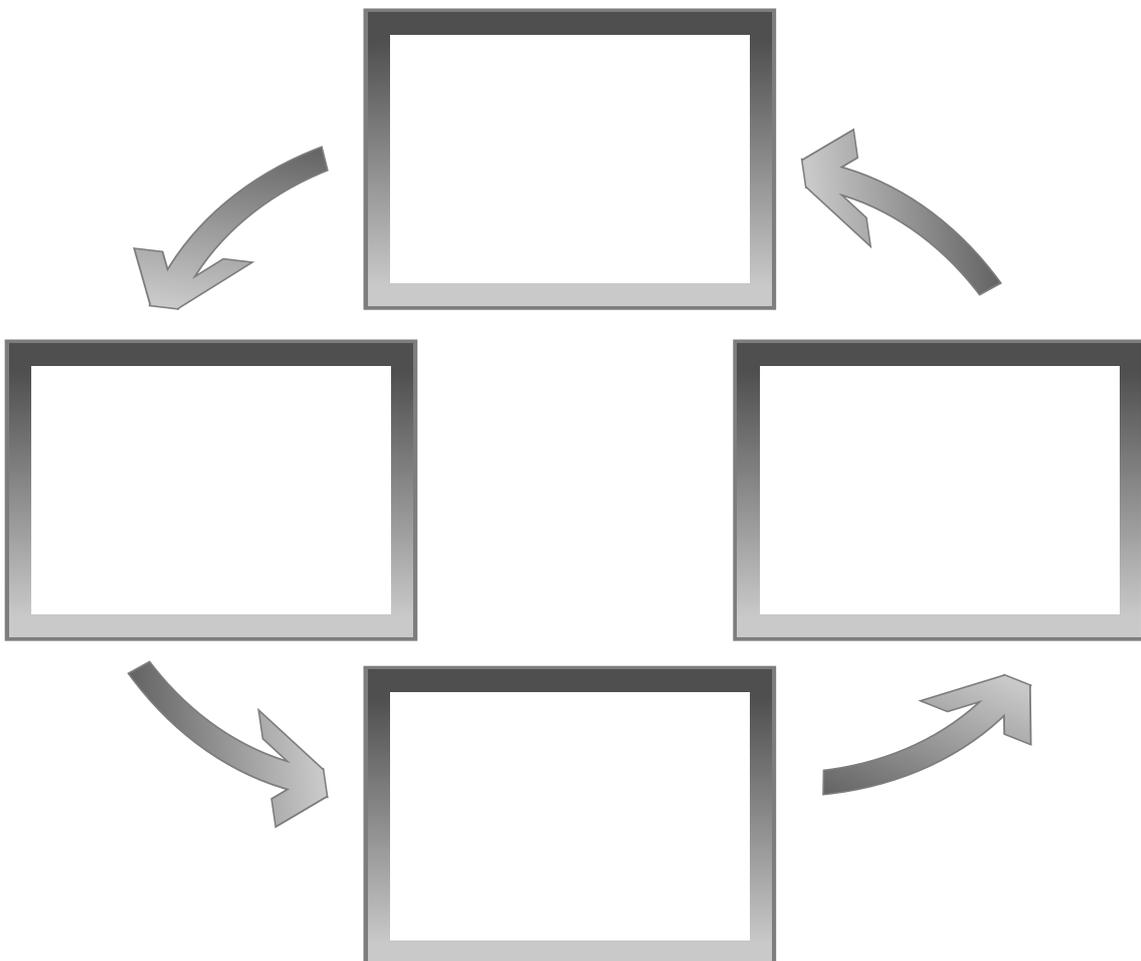
Film Studies

Watch the film adaptation of 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' and answer the following questions:

1. Do you think the main actors are well chosen? Explain your answer.
2. Is the setting how you imagined? Explain your answer.
3. Do you think the use of music added to the film? Explain your answer.
4. What differences do you notice between the novel and the film?
5. What did you prefer about the novel?
6. What did you prefer about the film?
7. If you were the casting director, what actors would you choose for the main roles? Give reasons for your choices.
8. If you were the director, would you change anything about the film? Explain your answer.

Actions and Consequences

In this story, one thing leads to another. What are the key moments that lead up to the climax of the story?



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Character Sketch

Characters in the novel have many different qualities and personality traits. Each of these characteristics helps to build them into the character we know. Use the 'wall' below to help you build what you know of a chosen character. Try to fill as many 'bricks' as you can with descriptive words that show the type of person he/she is.

My chosen character is _____

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