

Junior
Certificate
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Programme

By John Boyne

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas

Student Workbook



The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas Workbook

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K-W-L Activity

Complete the chart before, during and after reading the novel.

K: What I Know	W: What I Want to Know	L: What I Learned

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Research Activity

Research five facts about the Holocaust. Record these in the box below.

Fact 1	
Fact 2	
Fact 3	
Fact 4	
Fact 5	

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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. Why do the family have to move?
4. How does the reader know that does Bruno not want to leave?
5. 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. Compare Bruno's old house in Berlin with his new house.
2. Which house would you prefer to live in? Why?
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.

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Chapter 3

1. Describe Gretel, Bruno's sister.
2. Do you think that Bruno and Gretel have a positive relationship? Why?

Activity

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

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. Why does Bruno go in to his father's study?
3. What is really going on in the story, that Bruno is unaware of? How does the author show this?

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Activity

Research:

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

Chapter 6

1. Do you think that Bruno is settling well into his home? Why?
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. In which ways 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 is Bruno's opinion of Lieutenant Kotler? Do you think that his opinion is justified?
3. How does Gretel act around Lieutenant Kotler?
4. Do you think that Lieutenant Kotler treats Bruno fairly?
5. How does Lieutenant Kotler treat Pavel?
6. How does Bruno feel when Lieutenant Kotler treats Pavel like this?
7. How does Bruno injure himself?
8. Describe Bruno's injury.

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9. What do we learn about Pavel's past?
10. Why does Pavel's behaviour change when Bruno's mother arrives?

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. Can you think of any potential dangers with Bruno deciding to go 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. Describe the boy Bruno meets. What are your first impressions of this boy?
3. Shmuel mentions that he spends quite a lot of time alone, as his friends argue a lot.
How do you think that this makes him feel?
4. What does Bruno say about Germany and how does he feel once he says it?
5. What does Bruno discover about Out-With?
6. What does Shmuel say about where he comes from? Does he seem proud of 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. Prior to the Fury's visit, Bruno's father requests that Bruno and Gretel are to remain quiet and stay in their rooms during dinner. What does this suggest about the role of children in society?
3. Describe the Fury.
4. What does Bruno think of the Fury's manners?
5. At the end of the scene, Bruno overhears his father telling Bruno's arguing about moving to Auschwitz. It is clear that his father has the final word. What does this suggest about the relationship between his parents?

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 towards the armbands?
4. "*Bruno opened his mouth to contradict him.*" Why doesn't Bruno believe Shmuel's story?

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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? Do you think that this is a good decision?

Chapter 13

1. Why isn't Bruno feeling quite so unhappy about his new life?
2. What does Bruno discover 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 mistake does Lieutenant Kotler make in conversation?
9. What view does Bruno's father have of people who left Germany in 1938? Do you think that his view is fair and reasoned?

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? Why do you think that he jumps to this conclusion?
2. What does Bruno ask Shmuel every day?

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3. What does Bruno have to say about the striped pyjamas?
4. What does Bruno reveal to Gretel?
5. Why is Gretel sarcastic to Bruno?
6. 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 does Bruno deny knowing Shmuel? What would you have done in Bruno's position?

Activity

1. Diary Entry:

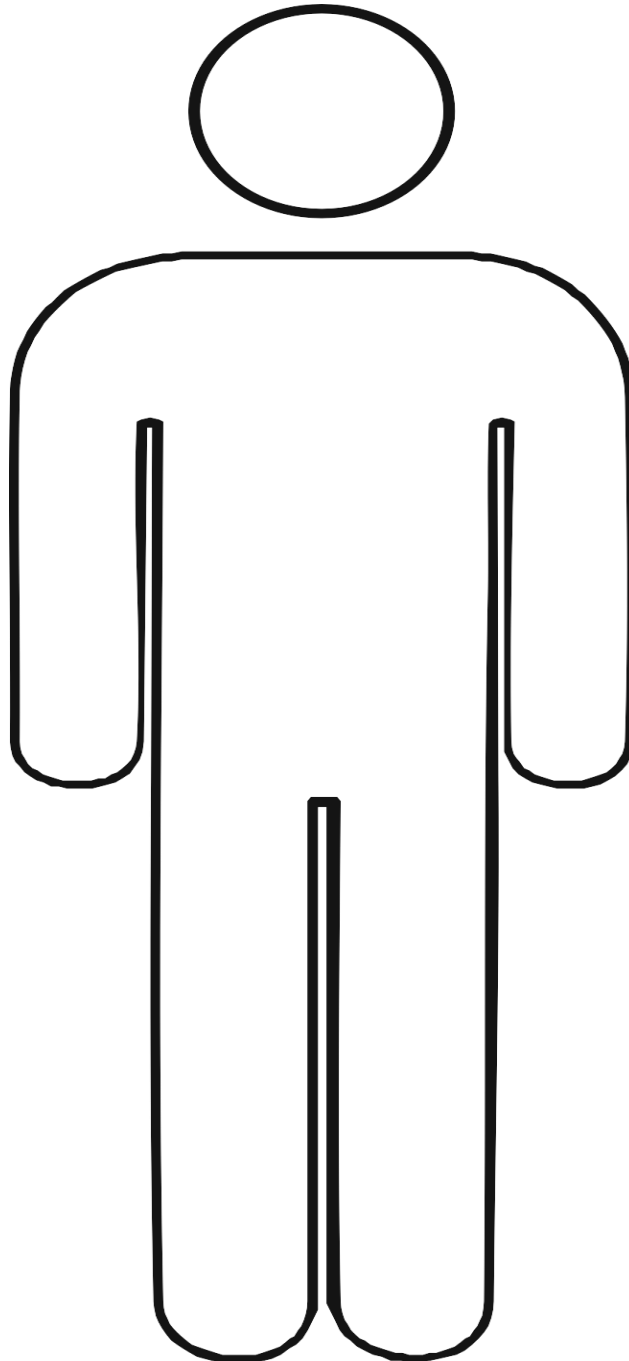
Imagine you are Shmuel. Write in your diary describing how you feel about the day's events.

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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? Do you think that this is a positive or negative change? Why?
5. What does Bruno ask Gretel? Why is Gretel shocked by this question?
6. What explanation does Gretel give?

Chapter 17

1. Bruno says his mother is unhappy at Out-With. Why do you think this?
2. What do Bruno's parents argue about?
3. 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?

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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. How do the boys feel when they're finally on the same side of the fence?
3. How did Bruno imagine the camp? Do you think that his assumption is realistic?
4. What does Bruno see in the camp?
5. What does Bruno tell Shmuel after they march?
6. What happens to the boys at the end of the chapter?

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 have sympathy for Bruno's father? Explain.

Activities

1. Your opinion:

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

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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.

Activity:

Think back to the K-W-L chart at the beginning of this workbook. Complete the "L" section.

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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 at 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.

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?

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7. Who is your favourite character in the novel? Explain why he/she is your favourite.
8. If you were making a film of this story, what actors would you choose to play the main characters? Give reasons for your answer.

Film Studies

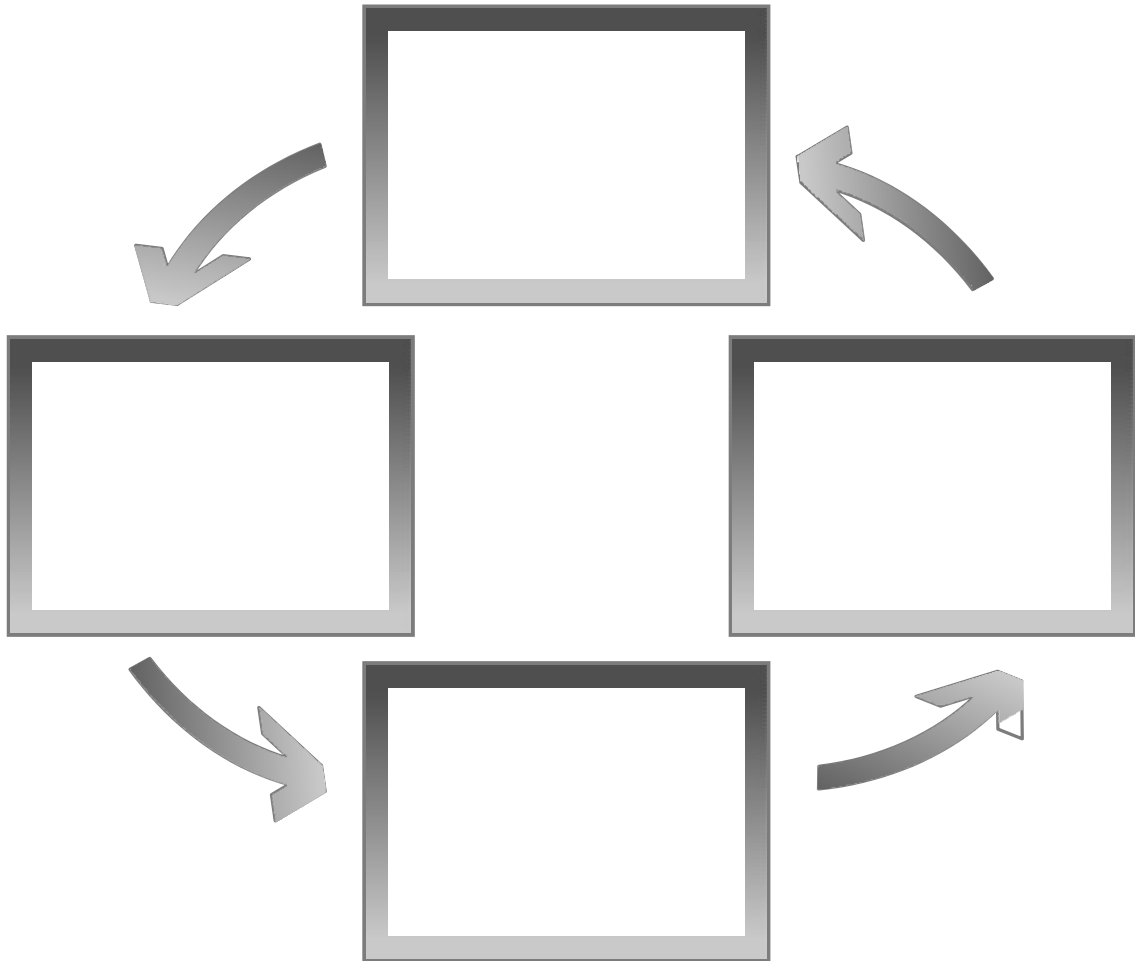
Watch the film adaptation of 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' and answer the following questions:

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.

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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 _____
