

## The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas

### John Boyne

#### About the Book

This novel is the story of Bruno, a young German boy whose life is turned upside down when his father is given a new position far from his home in Berlin.

Bruno is unhappy with his new life in a place called 'Outwith' where he has no friends. By chance he meets a young boy called Shmuel who lives behind a barbed wire fence with lots of people who all wear striped pyjamas. Bruno and Shmuel become friends with ultimately horrific consequences.

#### Discussion Questions

Please note that some of these questions will act as spoilers for the book.

1. the author John Boyne describes *The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas* as a 'fable'. A fable can be defined as a short story which teaches moral lessons. How well does this book fit this description?
2. the *Boy In The Striped Pyjamas* is primarily a book for children. Do you agree with this or is it relevant for adults too?
3. Bruno is completely unaware of the true nature of 'Outwith' (Auschwitz). Is this a sign of childhood naiveté or a representation of the lack of awareness of the Holocaust as it was occurring?
4. is there significance in "Auschwitz" being mis-described as 'Outwith' and 'Furher' as 'Fury'?
5. why does Bruno's father say that the people Bruno is watching 'are not people at all'?