

The boy in the striped pyjamas

Imagine that you are 9 years old. One day when you return home from school you are ordered to pack your bag. You have to leave the best house you know, the city you have lived in your whole life, and worst of all, you have to leave your best friends without saying goodbye. You have to leave the only world you know because the Second World War is coming, you and your family are going to a place called Auschwitz. You do not want to go. You do not actually know anything about the place or where you are going. But it does not seem as a lot of fun and you do not know anyone there.

That happened to the boy Bruno. Who is the main character in the book, *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*.

Bruno's family has to go because his father has received a very important job. He got the job from der Führer, Hitler. He can not say no. When Bruno arrives at his new home, he is bored. Bruno wonders why there are no windows on one side of his house. Who are all those people behind the house? Why is not he allowed to visit something outside only referred to as "the fence"?

Bruno is forbidden to explore but boredom, isolation and curiosity become too much for him. One day, he follows the fence closing off the area where these people live from his house. He spots a dot in the distance on the other side of the fence and as he gets closer, he sees it is a boy. Excited by the prospect of a friend, Bruno introduces himself. The Jewish boy's name is Shmuel. Almost every day, they meet at the same spot and talk.

They quickly become friends and Bruno often smuggles some food for Shmuel. Beginning to get used to the life here, Bruno was informed that he, along with his sister and mother, would all be moving back to Berlin because this was not a suitable environment to bring up two young children. However, just before their departure date, Bruno does something that no one will ever forget...

It's a touching tale of an odd friendship between two boys in terrible circumstances and a reminder of man's capacity for inhumanity.

In this capturing book, my favourite character is Bruno because he is a nice, caring person and is not afraid to take risks. For example, he brings food to Shmuel, knowing that if he was caught he would be in serious trouble. Additionally, Bruno is an extremely clever person. Due to his love for exploring, he is not afraid to face danger, which he does at the end of the book. He is a great role model for any young boy.

It is a realistic but not true story, *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* shows how evil and unfair the world can be. It keeps history alive for generations who have not experienced the war. You

understand that the people during that time were just like us, only humans, humans affected by the time they were living in. It also shows how the Jews were treated, they were like animals, not at the same level as humans.

I would recommend this amazing book to anyone, due to its stunning plot and the way that John Boyne has kept the reader hooked into the book. It also involves lots of tension and suspense, which grips the reader to enjoy this book.