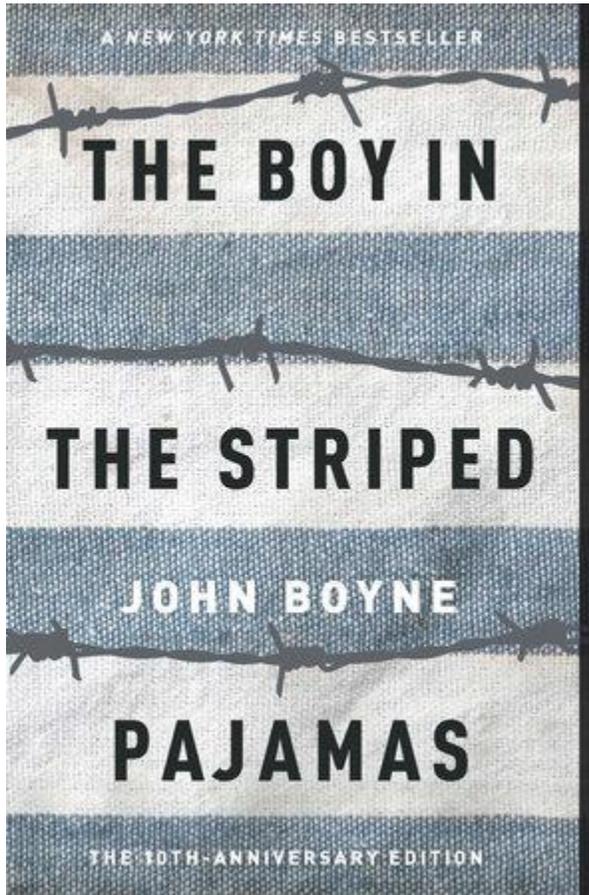


Current 8th – Incoming 9th Summer Assignment

Read *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne

(Ember – Random House, ISBN 978-0-385-75153-7)



You may want to read the **Questions for Discussion** pp. 217 – 218 before you start reading the novel on pp. 1 – 215. You may also need to do some of your own research regarding the setting of the text.

Be advised that the novel will be part of a **multi-session class discussion**, and may be quizzed at the beginning of the school year. This class analysis will culminate in a writing task to be announced in September.

To prepare for all that awaits, annotate the text in your book as you read: underline key passages, write notes in the margins, mark sections where you have questions. Focus on plot, conflict, character motivation and characterization, theme development, and style, such as the use of language, both literal and figurative.

Further, you are to answer the following questions (some of those found on pp. 217 – 218 of the book) to the best of your ability.

Your responses to these (in clear, concise Standard Written English -- in **pen**, not typed) **are to be submitted** no later than September 13th for assessment:

- 1. (1 - 2 paragraphs)** Discuss the relationship between Bruno and Gretel. Why does Bruno seem younger than nine?
- 2. (1 - 2 paragraphs)** At age twelve, Gretel is the proper age for membership in the League of Young Girls, a branch of the Hitler Youth. Why do you think she is not a member, especially since her father is a high-ranking officer in Hitler's army?
- 3. (1 - 2 paragraphs)** Bruno complains about having left Berlin, and his father responds, "Do you think I would have such a success of my life if I hadn't learned when to argue and when to keep my mouth shut and follow orders?" (p. 49). What question might Bruno's father ask at the end of the novel?
- 4. (1 - 2 paragraphs)** When Bruno and his family board the train for Out-With, he notices an overcrowded train headed in the same direction. How does he later make the connection between Shmuel and the train? How are both trains symbolic of each boy's final journey?
- 5. (1 - 2 paragraphs)** What is it about the house at Out-With that makes Bruno feel "very cold and unsafe" (p. 20)? How is this feeling perpetuated as he encounters people like Pavel, Maria, Lieutenant Kotler, and Shmuel?
- 6. (2 - 3 paragraphs)** Explain what Bruno's mother means when she says, "We don't have the luxury of thinking" (p. 13). Why is Bruno's mother unhappy at Out-With? Identify scenes from the novel that support your answer.
- 7. (2 - 3 paragraphs)** When Bruno dresses in the filthy striped pajamas, he remembers something his grandmother once said: *You wear the right outfit and you feel like the person you're pretending to be* (p. 205). How is this true for Bruno? What about his father? What does this statement contribute to the overall meaning of the story?