### Year Eight English (Term 2.1)

### The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne

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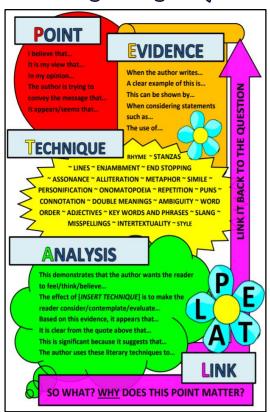
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### Knowledge Organiser

said Mother. "...Some people make all the



#### **Symbols**

Innocence and ignorance: the story is told from the viewpoint of Bruno, who is young and naïve. As a result, he is unaware of the true extent of the events taking place around him. He is oblivious to many important factors in the war, e.g. 'The Fury' (his mispronunciation of Fuhrer) and 'Out-With' (Auschwitz). The reader is forced to many of the more horrific images from the story.

Complicity: although a few of the characters are explicitly mentioned as supporters of the Nazi party, most of them end up complying with the regimes, goals and ideals primarily through a sense of duty, fear or apathy. Through these characters, Boyne demonstrates how ordinary, otherwise kind people became compliant with the horrors of the Holocaust.

#### **Key Context**

Adolf Hitler was the leader of Nazi Germany between 1934-1945. He was a dictator and known in Germany as 'Der Fuhrer'. His aggressive actions towards Jews and Untermenschen (undesirables) led to the deaths of millions of people across Europe.

The Holocaust is the genocide committed in World War 2. Approximately 6 million Jews were systematically murdered in Extermination Camps, such as Auschwitz in Poland. These camps were designed for the mass-murder of Jews during Hitler's 'Final Solution'.

Varied adjectives: Herr Liszt made a hissing sound... he said in a sinister voice (ch. 9) **Imagery:** colourful shop fronts; leeks and vegetables spilling out of the stalls (ch. 2)

Simile: It was as if he was the conductor of a barbershop quartet (ch. 5)

Limited third person narrative: the style of narration is third person, from Bruno's perspective. This reflects the innocence of Bruno's mind when compared to the horror of the Holocaust.

Bruno comes home one day to be told by his mother that they are moving house. He is disgruntled by this, but she it explains it is necessary due to Father's job in the army. Bruno hates the new house, which has none of the features of the old house,

in the camp wearing striped pyjamas.

which he loved. Bruno and Gretel learn that the new place is

recalls how The Fury once came to dinner. He also remembers

seeing a train crammed with people heading to Out-With.

Bruno decides to construct a swing. He asks Kotler for help –

to get him a tyre. Bruno soon falls off and scrapes his knee.

Out-With, Bruno's mother returns and looks uncomfortable.

She says to Pavel that she will claim to have bandaged Bruno

Kotler barks at an old man who now waits on the family (Pavel)

Pavel helps him, and reveals he was a doctor before he came to

**Plot Summary and Key Quotations** "We don't have the luxury of thinking,"

> decisions for us."" "That's the name of the house," said Gretel. "Out-With.""

called 'Out-with'. From a window, they can see all of the people Bruno decides to speak to his father about his displeasure. He "Ah, those people...well, they're not

> people at all."" "Heil Hitler"

> > Fury'

'There was an atmosphere around him (Kotler) that made Bruno feel very cold and want to put a jumper on.' "He doesn't understand you. He's only nine.'

'(Kotler) was just plain nasty.'

Father decides that Bruno and Gretel should resume their 'Bruno was sure that he had never seen a studies, and calls on a man called Herr Liszt to act as their skinnier or sadder boy in his life.' private tutors. One day, Bruno goes out exploring beyond the "Poland...That's not as good as Germany, garden. He meets Shmuel sitting at the other side of the fence. is it?' "We're superior" The boy is wearing the striped pyjamas. The two begin to talk "What a horrible man" said Bruno of The more about each other's lives, and strike up a friendship. The Fury comes over for dinner and is very rude and forceful around

the family. 'What happened then was ... unexpected Shmuel tells Bruno more about how he came to live in the camp. At dinner that evening, Father realises that Kotler's father deserted Germany at the start of the war. Kotler beats Pavel after he spills wine. Bruno is shocked to find Shmuel in

and extremely unpleasant. Lieutenant Kotler grew very angry with Pavel and no one...stepped in to stop him doing what he did, even though none of them could watch. Even though it made Bruno cry and Gretel grow pale.'

Bruno's grandmother dies/ Kotler is relocated. Bruno and Shmuel meet again and Bruno apologises. Bruno contracts lice and has to have his head shaved. Bruno's father and mother argue more, until it is agreed that the family (except Father) should be moved back home.

the house cleaning glasses one day. He gives Shmuel food, but

Kotler catches him eating it. Bruno then lies by stating that he

18-Shmuel reveals that he has lost his father. Bruno dresses in 20 striped pyjamas and goes under the fence to help. They are marched into a room and everything goes black.

"When I think about it, perhaps she is right. Perhaps this is not a place for children."

'Of course, all this happened a long time

happen again. Not in this day and age.'

ago and nothing like that could ever

did not give Shmuel food.

### The Fury

Gretel

Shmuel

Father

Lieutenant Kotler

# **Main characters**

Bruno Naïve, innocent, friendly: an innocent young boy growing up in Berlin. He loves adventures, which leads him to discover the horrors of Out-With.

> 'Hopeless case': Bruno's 12-year-old sister. She is obsessed with dolls and patronising towards Bruno. She thinks she knows everything, but it just as naïve

A 9-year-old Aushwitz prisoner. He knows a lot about the realities of wat and contrasts Bruno's naivety.

Handsome, mean: A young, well-dressed soldier who works for Bruno's father. He is cruel and violent towards the camp prisoners, and calls Bruno 'Little Man'.

Proud, devoted: Bruno and Gretel's father is a high-ranking member of Hitler's regime. He is Commandant of Out-With and tries to protect his family from what happens there.



Powerful, authoritative: The Fury is the Chancellor of Germany and Father's boss. He is a strict leader and firmly in control wherever he goes. He is married to Eva.

## Year Eight English (Term 2.1)

cruel

damaging

disaster

disgust

dreadful

ecstatic

freedom

corrupt

agony

atrocious

atrocity

appalling

beg

blessed

courageous

you

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne

**Instead of 'said', try:** shouted ~ yelled ~ called ~ laughed ~

giggled ~ cried ~ whispered ~ muttered ~ explained ~

exclaimed ~ questioned ~ announced ~ protested ~ argued

~ sighed ~ moaned ~ complained ~ disagreed ~ agreed ~ lied ~ admitted

hildhood

reamily out

Ε	motive Languag	e	Explaining PEEL: I had an unusual cl	
	forbidden	ordeal	terrified	■ I had a pet elephant when I was a child.
	harsh	outrage	threat	My parents owned a circus.
	honest	panic	tragic	I have a photograph showing me gazing dr of the window with my pet elephant.
	innocent	repulsive	tremendous	This photo proves that I had a pet
	magnificant	cocret	urgo	elephant when I was a child.

urge

vile

vulnerable

wicked

Johnny reminded us, "Always begin a new speaker on a new line!"

Knowledge Organiser

"Take care with your punctuation," he added.

#### Semi-colons separate two independent clauses

A whale is not a fish: it is a warm-blooded mammal.

#### Colons separate two dependent clauses

Whales are mammals while sharks are fish → whales are mammals; sharks are fish.

Simple sentences: The werewolf growled.

Alliteration

**Foresh** 

feeling

invokes or suggests.

Compound sentences: The werewolf growled and stalked the oblivious girl

Complex sentences: The werewolf growled while stalking the oblivious girl. // While stalking the oblivious girl, the werewolf growled.

#### Figurative language Comparing something to something else using 'like' or 'as'. Simile The water well was as dry as a bone The soldier was like a brave lion A comparison which is not literally true. Does not use 'like' or 'as'. Metaphor The water well was a dry bone. The soldier was a brave lion. Giving an object human characteristics (emotions, sensations, Personification speech, physical movements, etc.) The *cruel* waves *swallowed* the poor swimmer A word that names a sound, but also sounds like that sound. Onomatopoeia · Smash, splash, bang, crash, thud, zoom, sizzle, whizz, boom, honk

# **Subject Terminology**

or understand what is

going on around them.

Don't dream it. Drive it

Foreshadowing: to give an indication of what's to come.	Flashback: referring back to or remembering an earlier event.	Unreliable narrator: a narrator whose view cannot be trusted.
<b>Connotation</b> : an idea or feeling which a word	Naïve: a character who is innocent and doesn't know	Semantic field: a group of words belonging to a

The repetition of an initial letter or sound in closely linked words.

common theme or motif.

Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers

### **Relative Clauses**

My grandmother (who is ninety-two) is a gymnast.

Italy – where pizza is said to have been invented – is in Europe.

The vases, which were antiques, were extremely valuable.

#### **CHECK! Have you included basic punctuation?**

#### Subjunctive

magnificent

miracle

must

magic

secret

shame

startling

concealed

9 👸

For the subjunctive, we remove the final s at the end of the verb,

- I request that he write to her (instead of he writes to her) and in the subjunctive we use the forms I were and they be, so
- I wish I were able to fly (instead of I was)
- She asked that they be told immediately (instead of they were told).

The subjunctive isn't used in English very often. Nowadays it is usually replaced with modal verbs like might, could or should.

#### The Active Voice

The **subject** performs the **action** (the verb) to the object.

The people screamed at the zombies. The army shot at the zombies.

#### The Passive Voice

The thing that would normally be the object gets turned into the subject through the use of the passive form of the verb. They often include a prepositional phrase starting with 'by'.

The zombies were screamed at by the people. The zombies were shot at by the army.

#### A good essay introduction should:

- catch your reader's attention.
- give background on your topic.
- present your main point.

#### A good essay conclusion:

- Is the final idea left with the reader at the end of an essay.
- links back to the essay question by briefly restating your main points.
- includes a final thought or reflection to highlight the significance of the topic.

	<b>Prejudice:</b> a negative opinion about someone which is not based on fact or reason	Propaganda: information used to promote a political cause. It may be misleading.	Auschwitz: the biggest concentration camp in Poland, where millions of Jews died.	
	Commandant: leader of the concentration camp.	Holocaust: destruction or slaughter on a mass scale.	Anti-Semitism: hostility or prejudice towards Jews	
	<b>Discrimination</b> : the unfair treatment of people based purely on race, religion, age, gender, etc.	Final Solution: Hitler's final plan to exterminate the Jewish population in extermination camps.	Extermination Camp: concentration camps which committed the mass-murder of Jews.	

DADWAVERSS! Description ~ Action ~ Dialogue ~ Where ~ Adverb ~ Verb ~ Estimation of time ~ Rhetorical questions ~ Simile ~ Subordinating Conjunction ~ Onomatopoeia!