

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas

John Boyne

Reviewed by: Anika 16

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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Nine-year-old Bruno isn't happy to see his family moving from their home in Berlin. He used to have three amazing friends and so many nooks and crannies to explore in his hometown. In his new home, Bruno only has his "Hopeless Case" of a sister and his dominating parents to interact with. Bruno's hates the fact that his new home in "Out-With" is small, lonely, restrictive, and nothing like his old home. But it begins to grow on him when he befriends a boy on the other side of the fence. Their friendship would go on to transform their lives and their worlds forever, in a way no one would expect.

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas is a powerful and incredibly moving novel that takes place in the Holocaust. The story is told from a unique perspective of a child oblivious to the world around him. Readers will relate to Bruno's feelings of being in a new strange place, which helps the story build up to its unexpected ending. And certainly, readers will enjoy the growing friendship between Bruno and Shmuel. Boyne's writing style pulled at my heartstrings. It was heartwarming to see a beautiful friendship, but heartbreaking to read what was to come.

Some readers may find Boyne's book to be unrealistic, but it is still a very touching and eye-opening story. There is some implied violence and death, as well as emotional violence. Boyne's book also isn't very graphic, which can be good for younger readers. For these reasons, I would suggest The Boy in the Striped Pajamas to anyone 12 years or older. This book would make a great gift for fans of historical fiction and/or emotional stories.

Recommended Titles:

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Night by Elie Wiesel

The Boy at the Top of the Mountain by John Boyne

Stay Where You Are and Then Leave by John Boyne