

“The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas” by John Boyne

Published by Definitions, Random House Children’s Books – (the version with the striped cover)

Introduction

Nine year old Bruno knows nothing of the Final Solution and the Holocaust. He is oblivious to the appalling cruelties being inflicted on the people of Europe by his country. All he knows is that he has been moved from a comfortable home in Berlin to a house in a desolate area where there is nothing to do and no-one to play with. Until he meets Shmuel, a boy who lives a strange parallel existence on the other side of the adjoining wire fence and who, like the other people there, wears a uniform of striped pyjamas.

Bruno’s friendship with Shmuel will take him from innocence to revelation. And in exploring what he is unwittingly a part of, he will inevitably become subsumed by the terrible process.

“The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas” Miramax DVD

The DVD is categorised for 12’s and over so please ensure that the age group of the students is appropriate.

It is recommended that where possible the teacher should have read the book and seen the DVD prior to teaching these materials. It will enable adjustments to be made to the roll out of the materials in view of the lesson length and the needs of the students.

Lesson 3 – The same but different?

Main body of the lesson – background information to inform discussion – taken from the DVD and the book.

DVD extract 1 -