The Boy in the Striped Pajamas: Chapters 1-5

1. Why doesn’t Bruno understand the nature of his father’s job?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

2. How does Bruno’s mother feel about leaving the house in Berlin?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

3. How does Bruno feel about his sister?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

4. Why is Bruno reluctant to leave Berlin?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

5. How does Bruno react to his new house?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
6. How do Bruno and Maria react to the young soldier in the hall?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

7. Why do you think Bruno’s mother fails to tell her son the exact nature of his father’s job?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

8. Do you think Bruno’s mother could have done anything to make the move easier for her son?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

9. Why do you think that looking out the window makes Bruno feel “very cold and unsafe”?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

10. How does Gretel feel about the new house?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

11. Why does Gretel hesitate before looking out of Bruno’s window?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
12. Why is Gretel surprised when she looks out the window?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

13. How are the children on the other side of the fence treated by the soldiers?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

14. How does Gretel react to the children on the other side of the fence?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

15. How were the two trains headed eastward from the station in Berlin different?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

16. How does Bruno’s father react to his son’s desire to go home?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
17. Do you think that Bruno and his sister Gretel have a normal relationship or one that is made more difficult by the times in which they live?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

18. Why do you think it is so difficult for Bruno and Gretel to understand the true nature of Auschwitz?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

19. How would you describe Bruno’s relationship with his father? Do you think that the Commandant is a good father?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

20. How do you know when to keep your mouth shut and when to follow orders? Is there ever a time when someone should not follow orders?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

21. What do you think Bruno’s father means when he says that the people on the other side of the fence are not people at all?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________