The Boy in the Striped Pajamas: Chapters 6-10

1. Explain how Maria came to work for Bruno’s family
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

2. Read the following passage: “he has a lot of kindness in his soul, truly he does, which makes me wonder…” “Wonder what?” asked Bruno. “Wonder what he...how he can...” “How he can what?” insisted Bruno. What is Maria alluding to in this conversation?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

3. Do you think that Bruno’s father could be as kind a man as Maria describes and still be a Nazi Officer?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

4. Why is Maria grateful to the Commandant, Bruno’s father?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

5. Why is Maria so upset when Bruno keeps complaining that his father made a terrible mistake in coming to Out-With?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
6. Do you agree with Maria that Bruno should keep his criticism to himself?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

7. To what is Maria referring when she says that it is not up to her and Bruno to change things? Why do Bruno and Maria both feel like crying after she makes this statement?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

8. What causes both Bruno and Gretel to feel uncomfortable with Lieutenant Kotler?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

9. How does Pavel help Bruno after his accident?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

10. Why is Bruno surprised to find out that Pavel is a doctor?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
11. What does Pavel mean when he tells Bruno that he thinks he has always been at Out-With?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

12. Why does Bruno’s mother take credit for cleaning Bruno up after his fall? What does this suggest about her?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

13. If you knew Lieutenant Kotler, how would you feel about him? Is he the type of person you would want to be friends with? Why or why not?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

14. What about the character Pavel? What type of person do you think he is? Is Pavel the type of person you would want to be friends with? Why or why not?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

15. Why did the last play Bruno and Gretel performed with Grandmother end in disaster?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
16. Why was Grandmother unimpressed with her son’s new uniform?

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

17. Who is Herr Liszt and why does he dislike storybooks?

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

18. Why does Bruno decide to explore to find out more about the people in the striped pajamas?

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

19. Why does Bruno think that Shmuel’s face is strange?

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

20. When Bruno states that he and Shmuel are like twins, why does Shmuel reply, “A little bit”?

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

21. What changes take place at Out-With in Chapter 9?

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________
22. What does Bruno notice when the two groups (pajama group and the uniform group) mixed?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

23. What does the following passage reveal about Bruno’s character? “...taking a deep breath and beginning his journey. The one thing Bruno tried not to think about was that he had been told on countless occasions by both Mother and Father that he was not allowed to walk in this directions, that he was not allowed anywhere near the fence or the camp, and most particularly that exploration was banned at Out-With. With now exceptions.”

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

24. The boy Bruno sees has an armband that looks like this: What is this on his armband? What does this let us know about Shmuel, the boy Bruno meets?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

25. What do you think was the cause of the argument between Bruno’s father and Grandmother?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
26. How do you think Bruno’s father would define the word patriot? How might Grandmother’s definition of the word be different?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

27. Do you think that Shmuel is as naïve as Bruno?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

28. If you were Shmuel, how would you answer Bruno’s last questions: “Why are there so many people on that side of the fence? And what are you all doing there?”

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

29. Do you think that Bruno will do something when he finds out more about the other side of the fence?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________