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| **Key Vocabulary** |
| anti-Semitism | Hostility or prejudice towards those of a Jewish faith. |
| Auschwitz  | Poland’s largest concentration camp, where millions of Jews and other ‘undesirables’ were sent to die. |
| commandant | The person in charge of the concentration camp. |
| discrimination | The unfair treatment of people based on gender, race, age, sexuality or religion. |
| extermination camp | Concentration camps which committed the mass-murders of Jews and other ‘undesirables’. |
| Final Solution | The Nazis plan to get rid of the Jewish population, who he used as a scapegoat for Germany’s downfall. |
| Holocaust | Destruction or slaughter on a mass scale |
| prejudice | A negative opinion about someone. This is not based on fact or reason.  |



**Context**

Adolf Hitler was the leader of Nazi Germany between 1934 and 1945. He was known as ‘Der Fuhrer’ and he was a dictator. In his book, Mein Kampf, and lots of his speeches both before and after he came to power, he used the Jewish people as a scapegoat for Germany’s problems of losing the First World War and unemployment.

He was instrumental in the construction of multiple concentration camps – such as Auschwitz in Poland – where millions of Jews and other ‘untermenschen’ (undesirables) were kept captive and killed. The Holocaust is the name used to refer to the genocide committed during World War II.

**Key Quotes**

‘There was an atmosphere around him that made Bruno feel very cold and want to put a jumper on.’

‘Bruno was sure that he had never seen a skinnier or sadder boy in his life.’

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

**Key Characters**

Bruno – He is a 9 year-old boy growing up in Berlin. He is very adventurous and this leads him to discover ‘Out-With’. He is very naïve and doesn’t understand the severity of what is going on around him.

Shmuel – He is a prisoner in Auschwitz. He is befriended by Bruno and the boys spend a lot of time talking to each other through the barbed wire fence. He is very aware of what is going on, unlike Bruno.

Father – A high-ranking member of the Nazi Party. He is the commandant of Auschwitz and tries to protect his family from the atrocities happening there.

The Fury – His real name is Adolf Hitler, known as the Fuhrer.

Lieutenant Kotler – He is a cruel and violent soldier.

Gretel – Bruno’s older sister who is often very patronising.

**Themes**

The main themes are innocence, friendship and human nature.

**Plot summary**

This novel focusses on a young boy called Bruno and is set during the Second World War. He is the son of a high-ranking Nazi officer and they, along with the mother and sister, move to live in a hose in the countryside near a concentration camp in Auschwitz. His father is the commandant of the camp and there are often important meetings held in their family home. Whilst living there, he is very unhappy and lonely, and ends up befriending one of the boys being held captive in the camp – a Jewish boy named Shmuel. The boys develop a secret – and forbidden – friendship which ends in disastrous consequences.

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas

By John Boyne

D – Decode

E – Explain

R – Retrieval

I – Inference

C – Word Choice