

Remembering Auschwitz: A Reflection on The Boy in the Striped Pajamas

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February 2025

John Boyne's book, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, was published in the beginning of 2006 and had been adapted into a film by Mark Herman in 2008.

This film is based on events but is told through a fictionalised family and situation — such as Titanic.

The film is set during World War II where eight-year old Bruno and his family leave Berlin to take up residence near a concentration camp, where his father became Commandant. Bruno becomes lonely and goes wandering into the woods where he stumbles upon a concentration camp with eight-year old Shmuel on the opposite side of the fence.

When I first read the book, it was devastating. The way it was portrayed on screen was one of few books adapted into a film that is very accurate with the information Boyne had in the novel.

Films in general are made up of more than the acting, and in this case the composing that is done in this film is magnificent. You are always able to tell when something upsetting or thrilling happens and it almost prepares the watcher for what's to come.

Although, the historical event this film and novel are based upon is extremely brutal and upsetting. It is very informative about World War II and the unfortunate events that happened to innocent people.

The actions of an adventurous child leads to his perspective of life changing, whilst learning the sadness of realities of other people's lives.

The themes in the film go beyond war and sadness. It is also about friendship, innocence and morality.

As this is a very emotional film and subtly intense, I would recommend it to anyone who is emotionally prepared to watch it.



With *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* in mind, this year was the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the German Nazi concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz.

There are still Holocaust survivors today that now tell stories from their devastating childhoods — but in a way it is an interesting thing as the generations now are learning about the concentration camps and the war.

This historical event can be considered sensitive, but films like these tell the story in a thought provoking way and help educate anyone who watches them.