

**Read the opening passage from 'The Boy in Striped Pyjamas' by John Boyne:**

One afternoon, when Bruno came home from school, he was surprised to find Maria, the family's maid – who always kept her head bowed and never looked up from the carpet – standing in his bedroom, pulling all his belongings out of the wardrobe and packing them in four large wooden crates, even the things he'd hidden at the back that belonged to him and were nobody else's business.

'What are you doing?' he asked in as polite a tone as he could muster, for although he wasn't happy to come home and find someone going through his possessions, his mother had always taught him that he was to treat Maria respectfully and not just imitate the way Father spoke to her. 'You take your hands off my things.'

Maria shook her head and pointed towards the staircase behind him, where Bruno's mother had just appeared. She was a tall woman with long red hair that she bundled into a sort of net behind her head, and she was twisting her hands together nervously as if there was something she didn't want to have to say or something she didn't want to have to believe.

'Mother,' said Bruno, marching towards her, 'what's going on? Why is Maria going through my things?'

'She's packing them,' explained Mother.

'Packing them?' he asked, running quickly through the events of the previous few days to consider whether he'd been particularly naughty or had used words out loud that he wasn't allowed to use and was being sent away because of it. He couldn't think of anything though. In fact over the last few days he had behaved in a perfectly decent manner to everyone and couldn't remember causing any chaos at all. 'Why?' he asked then. 'What have I done?'

Mother had walked into her own bedroom by then but Lars, the butler, was in there, packing her things too. She sighed and threw her hands in the air in frustration before marching back to the staircase, followed by Bruno, who wasn't going to let the matter drop without an explanation.

'Mother,' he insisted. 'What's going on? Are we moving?'

'Come downstairs with me,' said Mother, leading the way towards the large dining room where the Fury had been to dinner the week before. 'We'll talk down there.'

**Answer the questions below:**

1. How old do you think Bruno is? \_\_\_\_\_

Give at least two pieces of evidence from the text to support your answer:

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2. Name the three adults who appear in this scene:

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3. Give definitions for the following words and phrases:

a. respectfully \_\_\_\_\_

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b. possessions \_\_\_\_\_

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c. imitate \_\_\_\_\_

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d. chaos \_\_\_\_\_

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e. perfectly decent manner \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Bruno's family are wealthy. Give at least three pieces of evidence from the text to support this statement.

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5. Why do you think Bruno's mother wants to talk to him downstairs?

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6. How is Bruno's mother feeling?

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7. This story is set in Germany during the Second World War. Who do you think 'the Fury'?

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8. Over to you! Write a diary entry for one of the characters explaining what happened in this short scene from their point of view.

[illegible]