What happens in the end?

Were you surprised by the ending? Why? Why not?

How have characters changed from the beginning to the end of the novel?

Is there a hero in this story? If so, what makes him/her a hero?

Is there a villain in this story? Explain your answer.

Neither Bruno nor Shmuel really know what´s going on at the concentration camp. Why is that? And what allows them to keep their innocence?

Does Bruno change during the story, does he get more aware of what´s going on? Explain your thoughts and give examples.

Why do you think the author chose to tell the story from Bruno´s, a child´s, perspective?

Why do you think Bruno and Shmuel become friends and stay friends?

How does the friendship that Bruno has in Berlin at the beginning compare with his friendship with Shmuel?

Does the friendship between Bruno and Shmuel change in the story? How?

The wire fence physically separates Bruno and Shmuel – what other types of separation does the fence represent in this story? (elstängsel)

Do you think Bruno’s mother could have done anything to prevent what happened to Bruno?

Do you think that Shmuel is as naive as Bruno?

At age 12, Gretel is the proper age for membership in the League of Young Girls, a Hitler’s Youth Organization. Why do you think she is not a member?

What has most likely happened to Shmuel’s father?  Why is the boy slow to realize this?

Why do you think Gretel gives up her dolls and replaces them with maps?

If you were Shmuel, would you be as patient with Bruno when he fails to understand just how bad conditions are in the camp?  Why do you think that Shmuel does not try harder to correct his friend’s outrageous statements?

Of all the reasons why Bruno does not like Lieutenant Kotler, which one do you find most disturbing?

Why is it significant that the boys touch for the first time?

Why do you think that the author Boyne chose to write this tragic story using a third-person narrator?

What big realization does the father make at the end of the story? What does it serve for the reader?

How does the reality of the camp differ from the way Bruno imagined it?

Give examples!

Describe the relationship between Bruno has with his sister Gretel. Also use 3 adjectives to explain the relationship.

Give examples of similarities and differences between Bruno and Shmuel.

Why does Bruno decide not to tell his family about his new friend?

If you were writing the next chapter, what would happen next? How would the story continue in your opinion?

What is the most exciting part of the novel? How did the author make that part of the story exciting?

Describe your favorite moment in the novel and say why it is your favorite.

Describe a sad or worrying event that happens in the story. Explain how well the author describes this sadness or worry.

What are some lessons that readers learn throughout the book The Boy in the striped Pyjamas?