**Bruno and Shmuel**

* For Bruno and Shmuel, war brings them together. Their relationship is a strong one that is based off of talking and getting to know each other, not just playing and having fun together like Bruno and his friends from Berlin. This is one of the only ways that war affects them other then the fact that they can’t play together or spend very much time together due to Shmuel having to work and him being called back to his hut.
* The war between Germans and Jewish people did not affect Bruno and Shmuels relationship. Bruno wasn’t very aware of what was going on, but when he found out, he didn’t let that stop him from having a friendship with Shmuel.

**Elsa and Ralf**

* War has weakened their relationship due to their different political views and what they believe is right and wrong and what’s best for Germany.
* Ralf believes that what he is doing with the concentration camps is right and treating the people in the camps how he is is right.
* Elsa doesn’t believe in what her husband is doing. She doesn’t like that Ralf is treating the Jewish people the way he is and that they are hurting them for no real reason. Elsa believes that Ralf is taking things too far and way out of proportion.
* The same goes for Ralf and his mother. She doesn’t like what her son has turned into and she believed that she had raised him better then what he turned out to be.

**Notable Ursu Quotes**

* “It is very important to understand that when you are in a state of war with another country or nation, that country, that nation, that ethnicity becomes your enemy.”
* “Your perspective on your destruction is that the other is destroying whatever you built, so immediately, the feeling is that those guys are my enemies.”
* “Germany has Belgium, France, Italy, Austria, Czech Republic… People and so on who are German citizens, but those people will be looked upon with suspicion.”
* **“War distorts your view on nationality and ethnicity.”**
* “Japanese people were put into camps simply because we were at war with Japan. So, by reflection, you personally will think that any Japanese person will be suspect of spying or nefarious things.”
* “Psychologically… It’s a time of fear… and permanent anxiety.”

**Notable Chin Quotes**

* “It depends on the cause of the war. The cause of the war dictates how people respond to it.”
* “That can go from war outrage and indignation across the spectrum to anger depending on which side of the conflict you’re on.”
* “So many innocent lives are caught in the middle of something that has nothing to do with them.”
* “My spectrum is moral indignation and righteousness all the way over to that anger and frustration or even helplessness.”
* “Who’s caught in the middle of it all? Innocence.”

**Notable Darbari Quotes**

* “You blame the government and you blame the people.”
* “When you’re at war, you really have to separate the people from the government.”
* “I know the people who are in Iran, and they are not like the government.”
* “It absolutely makes you see that the people are not their government.”
* “My message is not to confuse those two because people, most of the time, have no control over what their government does. Yes, maybe they voted for them, but in some cases, they haven’t.”
* “When you talk about Americans or Iranians, you really should put the word the government of Iran or the government of America.”

**Rhinocéros**

* There are people sitting in front of a café. They are separated in their friend groups/the people they know when a rhinoceros runs through the streets. They all get together and debate whether it was an African or Asian rhino. Another rhino runs by and they keep fighting about whether it was African or Asian based on the amount of horns that it has. They eventually split up and Berenger goes to work and it turns out that people are turning into rhinos. They are more and more people turning into rhinos and his friend Jean hadn’t gone to work, so Berenger goes to check on him. It turns out Jean is turning into a rhino and they debate whether it’s a choice of if it’s a disease or outbreak. Jean turns into a rhino, Berenger runs away scared that he will turn into a rhino as well. He confesses his love for Daisy and then they argue about the whole people turning into rhinos thing and then he decides that he will fight the rhinos.
* Rhinos = nazis and people turning into them
* It affects Berenger and Jean’s relationship negatively. Jean thinks that it might not be a bad thing and Berenger thinks it’s the worst thing that can happen. This kind of resembles Bruno’s parents with one thinking that it’s good and one thinking it is terrible and doesn’t agree with what the other is doing.
* It breaks apart their relationship, they go their separate ways

**Joyeux Noel**

* Christmas eve 1914, during WWI in the Western Front in France. Scottish German and French troops stop fighting and share a moment of friendship, truce, and peace.
* War brings these men together. They are all fighting for their respective countries, and in the moment of truce, they come together and enjoy Christmas eve by playing games, drinking, and sharing stories.
* This might make it a little bit harder for them to fight each other the next day, but they all know that the other is doing what they believe is best for their country.
* Like Bruno and Shmuel, it is very likely that these men would never have met without war, even within their own troops. It is kind of a bittersweet relationship, like Bruno and Shmuel’s. They make friends with their “enemies,” but unlike Bruno, they end up having to hurt them and fight against them while Bruno has to deal with being tied up in thinking that his father is doing what’s right when he is hurting someone, which is another parallel between the two.

**To Kill a Mockingbird**

* Scout and Jem want to have a relationship and be friends with their maid, Calpurnia, even though it is looked down upon. This resembles Bruno and Elsa being nice to Pavel and not wanting to be mean to him and the other prisoners because they are at war with their people.
* In both books, the children develop friendships with who everyone else sees as the enemy. This relates to children’s innocence and not knowing what’s going on around them and also them not caring what others think. They don’t know that what they are doing is looked down upon and when they find out, they don’t understand, and they question why.
* Bruno and Scout don’t care about what others think. They will be friends with whoever they want to be friends with, regardless of what other people think because of wars or disagreements.

**The Hunger Games**

* In the nation of Panem, over 75 years before the events of The Hunger Games, there was the First Rebellion. It was the 13th district standing up to the Capitol and trying to fight their forces. This led to the “destruction” of the 13th district. (They aren’t destroyed but decide on a peace treaty.)
* After this, the annual Hunger Games were started. This cased destruction to the structure of Panem.
* This separated the districts even more. Even the separation of the districts had an impact on district to district relations. The first is all about glamour and flash. They are the richest and are the closest with the Capitol, making them look down on the other districts and the other districts want to be them, unless you are in the lowest district. Then you would think they are stuck up. The second district is all about rocks and specializes in stonework. The 12 district (Katniss’) is about mining and coal production. They are the poorest and smallest district, making them look dirty and poor. The other districts look down on them. The 13th district was all about weaponry. After they split from the others, they kept producing weapons to help with the next revolution.
* Because of this revolution, the districts don’t really have relationships with each other. They are very separated, even more after the revolution. The first doesn’t want anything to do with the 12th, kind of like how the Germans didn’t want anything to do with the Jewish people and made them do all the dirty and hard work.
* Also, the Capitol ruled by fear like the Nazis. If you didn’t do what they wanted you to or you disobeyed or revolted, you would be hurt/killed.
* The revolution on the Capitol that Katniss destroys her relationship with her sister as Prim is killed. This is the case for a lot of people who are in a territory where was is. It rips away the relationships without warning and in a way that you can never undo.

**Une bouteille dans la mer de Gaza**

* Tal is an Israeli. She hears about a bombing in a café near her and decides to write a letter. She puts it in a bottle and gives it to her brother who is in the military to throw into the sea of Gaza, but he places it in the sand so he could be sure that someone would find it.
* Gazaman, or Naïm, finds the bottle and sends an email to the one Tal wrote in the letter. She finds out that he is Palestinian. He is annoyed by her naïve-ness and patronizing she is about the conflict between the Palestine and Israel. Neither agrees with the war and they want to stop it.
* They end up emailing back and forth and learn a lot about the others life and country. Like Bruno and Shmuel, they develop a relationship that shouldn’t have happened and the probably wouldn’t have happened with out war.
* Neither pairing lets war affect their friendships negatively. They don’t believe in the conflict happening between their and the others kind and they don’t let the wars or other peoples thoughts cloud their judgement on their friend.
* Tal doesn’t believe that Naïm is a bad person because her people are at war with his. She knows he’s his own person and gets to know him as such. The same goes for Bruno and Shmuel. Bruno gets to know Shmuel for who he is, not as a Jew, and Shmuel gets to know Bruno without being scared of him because he is German and his father works in the camp.

**Solution/answer**

* I think Ursu said it best when he said that war distorts your view on ethnicity and nationality. War clouds our judgement on other people. We let other peoples judgement get to our heads and trust them instead of finding out for ourselves what kind of people others are.
* How does war affect our relationships with others? It shouldn’t. But it does. We shouldn’t let it decide how we should feel about others for us. We need to find that out for ourselves. Yes, you have to be careful who you trust during a time of war, but I think we need to have a bit of Bruno’s child innocence and naïve-ness to not let conflict or war affect a relationship, especially when the people you are fighting against are innocent.
* It can strengthen the relationships between people who believe in the same thing and it can destroy the ones between those who see things differently and who are fighting for different things.
* Like Mme. Darbari, we need to separate people from their governments and not judge people by what their government does.