
Connection Based Novel Project

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English 12
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—
My Question:

**How can one's identity
shape who they become and
what actions they may take?**

Research

- Who am I?
 - Am I the person who I think I am or what the others believe I am?
 - Do I see myself through the reflection of my own eyes or those of others'?
-

Connections

(Any prior learning, cross-curricular connections & connections to other sources)

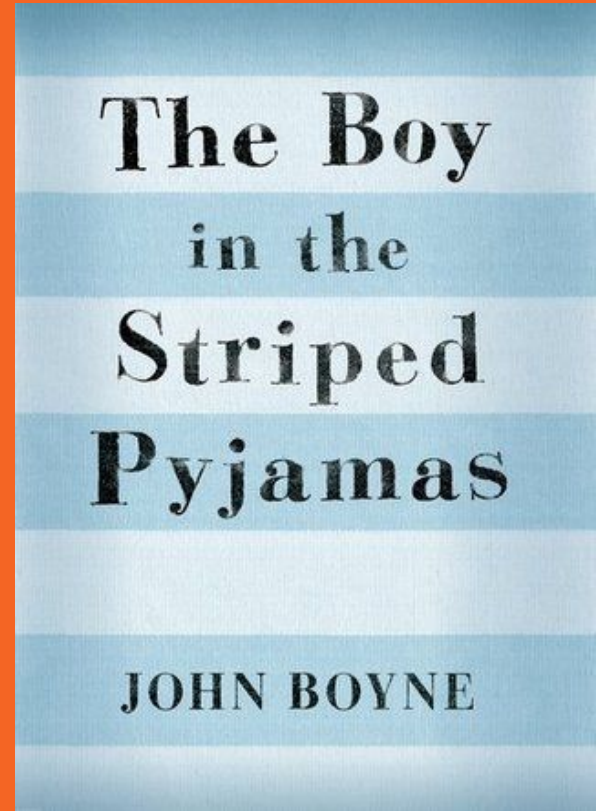


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The Boy in the Striped Pajamas

Written by Daniel Keyes



Analysis of the Novel

A background illustration showing two young boys sitting on opposite sides of a single strand of barbed wire. The boy on the left has dark hair and is wearing a dark vest over a light shirt. The boy on the right is balding and wearing a striped shirt. They are both looking at each other and reaching out towards the wire. The scene is set outdoors with some foliage on the left and a hazy, overcast sky in the background.

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1. Plot
2. Characters
3. Theme
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5. Conflict
6. Setting
7. Point of View

1. Plot

Climax

- Bruno's mother & sister moving back to Berlin
- Bruno & Shmuel try to find Shmuel's father by Bruno dressing like other Auschwitz prisoners
 - Sneaks under fence to join Shmuel

Rising Action

- Bruno begins exploring the forest around the house & runs into the Auschwitz camp
- Meets "the boy in the striped pajamas," Shmuel
- Bruno doesn't understand the concentration camp & Shmuel's imprisonment

Falling Action

- Bruno is in the concentration camp & scared but refuses to abandon Shmuel
- The kids get shoved into a gas shower with the door locked

Exposition

- Bruno comes home to find his family packing to move to Auschwitz
- Does not living in "Out With"

Conclusion

- Bruno & Shmuel are killed in the gas shower
- Bruno's parents search for him, finally accepting what happened
- War is over & captured

2. Characters

Charlie Gordon

- Narrator
- Protagonist
- Lack of intelligence made him a trusting & friendly person
- Gains perspective on past & present after he becomes smarter

Alice Kinnian

- Represents the human warmth & kindness
- Teaches literacy skills to adults
- Romantic love towards Charlie
- Accepts Charlie as a person

Professor Nemur

- Opposite of Alice
- Never interested in Charlie's human emotions
- Upset when Charlie surpasses him intellectually

3. Theme

Identity

- Bruno has a way of thinking about this concretely, making sense of a rule and applying it to all situation is a characteristic of Bruno that identifies him as a child
 - That's why when Bruno betrays Shmuel & contributes to Shmuel's punishment for a crime he didn't commit (stealing food)
-

4. Symbol

The Fury

- Bruno mispronounces “The Fuhrer” meaning “leader”
- Illustrates Hitler as an unstoppable, blindly angry & destructive force for evil

Out With

- Bruno mispronounces “Auschwitz”
- Highlights the evil ideology of the Holocaust to be “out with” or to eliminate groups through genocide

Striped Pajamas

- Symbolize the danger of labeling & judging groups based on exterior features
- Bruno is mistakenly killed because of his “pajamas”

5. Conflict

External Conflict

- When Bruno goes into the camp with his friend Shmuel
 - Taken into gas shower & dies when they were looking for Shmuel's father
 - Bruno's father upset because he thinks that his own involvement in the Holocaust led to Bruno's death
-

6. Setting

Physical Setting

- 1942
- Germany
- Bruno's family lives in a house next to a concentration camp
- "Out With," Auschwitz

Emotional Setting

- Strange place for Bruno
 - Bruno doesn't understand the horrors on the other side of the fence
-

7. Point of View

- Third-Person Omniscient Point of View
 - Told by a narrator
 - Focused on Bruno's vantage point
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The Boy in the Striped Pajamas

Novel; Written by John Boyne

→ Identity

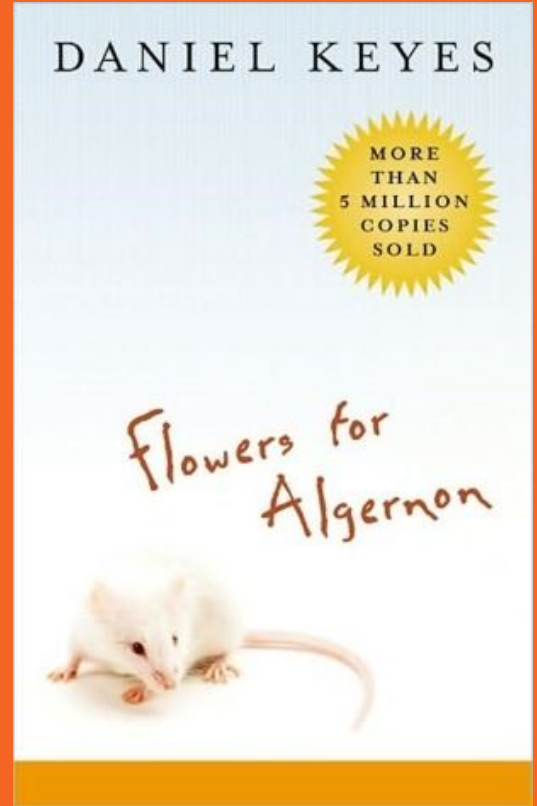
Bruno lacks a clear understanding of the world around him, but knows what he is allowed to do / not to do due to his father. Naive boy with empathy towards his new best friend.

→ Actions

Even though Bruno does not understand why they are separated by a fence, his empathetic identity leads him to cross the fence to help his best friend find his father and ultimately get killed in a gas chamber.

Flowers for Algernon

Written by Daniel Keyes



Plot

Climax

- Finds error in Nemur's hypothesis that causes the intelligence to vanish
- Creates a phenomenon called the "Algernon-Gordon Effect"

Rising Action

- Introduced to Algernon, a mouse that underwent surgery
- After Charlie undergoes surgery, he starts writing "Progress Reports"
- After seeing Algernon's intelligence slipping, he starts questioning if his intelligence is temporary

Falling Action

- Algernon dies
- Starts to lose his intelligence
- Returns to his old job at the bakery
- Goes back to his teacher, Alice Kinnian

Exposition

- Charlie Gordon (37) is mentally impaired & candidate for a project to make him smarter
- In a lab

Conclusion

- Goes to search for a new place where he would be treated like everyone else
- Last request is for the reader to leave flowers on Algernon's grave

Characters

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Flowers for Algernon

Novel; Written by Daniel Keyes

→ Identity

Charlie's identity as a disabled man in his 30's gives him a specific role within the community- as someone who needs support but also someone that could easily be the subject of their mockery.

→ Actions

Charlie is willing to take every opportunity to become smarter, but when he does become smart, he realizes why people were either overly nice to him or mean to him. When he turned back to his old state, his identity had crumbled and changed him negatively.



Lamb to the Slaughter

Short Story; Written by Roald Dahl

→ Identity

When her husband asks for a divorce, she is devastated because being a single mom & becoming a divorcee is life ruining.

→ Actions

By murdering her husband, she is able to gain the title of a widow- owning her identity, but utilizing it so she is able to get away with her crime and not getting blacklisted by societal eyes. She becomes the tragic housewife, not the abandoned housewife.



Man in the Woods

Poem; Written by Jacob Streilein

→ Identity

The teacher used to be a well-respected teacher, however, he was blamed & punished for something he cannot control. This made him bring back the dark past that he had left behind.

→ Actions

With both the school board and his students treating him as if he was the one that committed crimes. The actions of others ultimately result in him becoming the person that they told him he was.



Hair

Song; By Lady Gaga

→ Identity

She has a hard time making her parents understand her identity but sure of what her identity is and who she wants to be.

→ Actions

To stand up for her own identity, she fights back at her parents when they do not approve of her identity. Her wish is to live like her hair, symbolized by freedom.

Whenever I'm dressed cool My
parents put up a fight
And if I'm hot shot
Mom will cut my hair at night

And in the morning
I'm short of my identity I
scream Mom and Dad
Why can't I be who I wanna
be?

I've had enough, this is my
prayer
That I'll die livin' just as free as
my hair
I've had enough, this is my
prayer

Problems & Solutions

Problem

People can affect an individual's identity negatively without noticing.



Solution

Different for each individual and how they deal with it; identity can destroy someone or they can own the changes.

