

Chapter 5

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After reading the chapter carefully, answer the following questions. You will need to look back through the text to find the answers.

1. Why do you think Bruno's mother says, "I didn't mean – ' began Mother before shaking her head and starting again. 'I wasn't trying to suggest – "' when Maria overhears her comments about the Fury?
2. What contrasts does Bruno notice between the train his family boarded and the one on the other side of the platform? What similarities are there?
3. What impression do you get of Bruno's father when Bruno sees him with the other men in the hallway? Explain your points, using quotations to prove you are right.
4. Look back through the conversation that Bruno has with his father after he tells him that he does not like their new house. Make a list of all the reasons that Bruno gives for wanting to go back to Berlin and the answers that his father gives him. Do you think Bruno is treated fairly or unfairly here? Give reasons for your decision.
5. At the end of the chapter something happens which shows the reader that Bruno does not know anything about the situation he and his family are in. How do you know that he does not understand? What other clues have there been up to this point; make a list.

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Chapter 6

After reading the chapter carefully, answer the following questions. You will need to look back through the text to find the answers.

1. Make a list of all the things that Maria has done for Bruno through his life. How do you think Bruno has behaved towards her up until now? Provide evidence for your decision.
2. In your own words, recount what Maria tells Bruno about her past and that of her parents.
3. In what way might her story affect the reader's view of Bruno's father?
4. Find at least one comment that Maria makes which implies Bruno's father has changed.
5. Why do you think John Boyne, the author, has Gretel come into Bruno's room and be rude to Maria at this point?
6. 'Suddenly, and for no reason that he could think of, Bruno felt an overwhelming urge to cry.' After a few minutes Bruno goes outside and runs about. Why do you think Bruno starts to cry and feels the need to escape from the house?