CHAPTER V

Out of bounds at all times and no exceptions

There was only one thing for it: to speak to Father.

Since arriving at Out-With, Bruno hadn't seen him. Then one afternoon, he heard noise downstairs. Looking over the banister, he saw Father in his uniform, surrounded by officers who laughed and saluted before leaving. Bruno felt both proud and afraid.

He gathered courage, knocked, and entered Father's office, a large room with tall windows, dark shelves of books, and a heavy desk. Father smiled.

'Bruno,' he said, shaking his hand. 'My boy.'

'Hello, Father,' whispered Bruno.

They sat.

'So?' asked Father. 'What do you think? Do you like your new home?'

'No,' said Bruno honestly. 'I think we should go home.'

Father frowned. 'We are home. Out-With is our home.'

'But Grandfather and Grandmother are in Berlin. They're our family too. So this can't be our home.'

Father sighed. 'You, I, Mother, and Gretel are the most important. Our family is here now.'

'I don't like it here,' insisted Bruno. 'There's no one to play with, no streets, no cafes, no fruit stalls.'

Father's voice grew tired. 'Sometimes there are things we must do in life that we don't choose. This is my work. Important work. Important to our country. Important to the Fury.'
Bruno felt tears rising. 'Did you do something wrong? Is that why he sent you here?'

1. Choose the **four** true statements. [4]

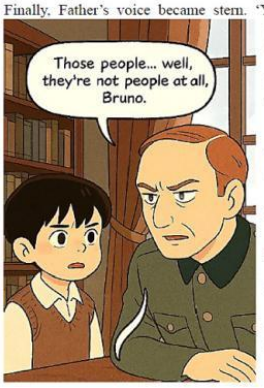
- A. Bruno feels reassured when he sees Father surrounded by other officers.
- B. Bruno overcomes his hesitation before approaching Father in his office.
- C. Father's friendly greeting convinces Bruno to accept their new home.
- D. Bruno believes that home should include relatives beyond his immediate family.
- E. Father considers his job responsibilities more important than Bruno's concerns.
- F. Bruno misses Berlin mainly because his grandparents still live there.
- G. Father thinks that personal preferences cannot determine people's responsibilities.
- H. Bruno suspects Father's relocation might be a consequence of misconduct.

Instructions | Text A | Text B | Text C | View summary >

Specimen 1 – English B – Higher level – Paper 2 – Reading comprehension

Father laughed, which made Bruno angry.

Finally, Father's voice became stern. 'You will be quiet now. Accept the situation. This is it for the foreseeable future.'



Bruno turned to leave, then asked one last question.

'Who are all those people outside? The ones in the huts, all dressed the same?'

Father nodded, smiling faintly. 'Those people… well, they're not people at all, Bruno.'

Bruno frowned, unsatisfied.

At the door, he raised his arm and repeated the phrase he had learned: 'Heil Hitler,' which, he presumed, meant, 'Goodbye for now.'

CHAPTER VI

The overpaid maid

Some days later Bruno was lying on his bed, staring at the ceiling. The white paint was cracked and peeling, unlike the perfect paintwork in Berlin. He imagined insects living behind the cracks, trying to escape. Nothing, thought Bruno, not even insects, would ever choose to stay at Out-With.

'Everything here is horrible,' he said aloud. 'I hate this house, I hate my room and I even hate the paintwork. I hate it all. Absolutely everything.'

At that moment Maria entered with his clean clothes.
'Hello,' said Bruno, glad to speak to someone.

Choose an appropriate option from the list that completes each gap in the following text.

Bruno becomes frustrated when his father [2.] that the family's situation will not change anytime soon. His father's description of the people living outside reveals a deeply [3.] attitude towards them. Bruno also [4.] the meaning of a political greeting, believing it is an ordinary farewell. Later, the deteriorating condition of his bedroom [5.] his dissatisfaction with his new surroundings. When Maria enters, Bruno [6.] that she shares his unhappiness, although she has not expressed her feelings.

Instructions | Text A | Text B | Text C | View summary >

Specimen 1 – English B – Higher level – Paper 2 – Reading comprehension

'Master Bruno,' said Maria quietly, sorting the clothes.

'I expect you're as unhappy as I am,' said Bruno. 'Everything here. It's awful, isn't it? Don't you hate it too?'

Maria hesitated. 'Don't you like it here then?'

'Like it? Of course I don't! There's nothing to do, no one to talk to. You can't tell me that you're happy we've moved here, surely?'

Maria answered softly: 'I always enjoyed the garden at the house in Berlin… the flowers, the scents, the bees.'



Bruno insisted: 'So you don't like it here then? You think it's as bad as I do?'

Maria frowned. 'It's not important.'

'Well, of course it's important. You're part of the family, aren't you?'

'I'm not sure whether your father would agree with that.'

Bruno leaned closer. 'Well, you've been brought here against your will, just like I have. If you ask me, we're all in the same boat. And it's leaking.'

Maria clenched her fists, as if holding back words. Bruno pleaded: 'Please tell me, Maria. Because maybe if we all feel the same way we can persuade Father to take us home again.'

Maria shook her head sadly. 'Your father knows what is for the best. You must trust in that.'

'But I'm not sure I do,' whispered Bruno. 'I think he's made a terrible mistake.'

What do the following words mean in the extract below? Choose the appropriate words from the list.

Maria hesitated. 'Don't you like it here then?'

'Like it? Of course I don't! There's nothing to do, no one to…

…knows what is for the best. You must trust in that.'

'But I'm not sure I do,' whispered Bruno. 'I think he's made a terrible mistake.'

7. hesitated [7.]
8. insisted [8.]
9. frowned [9.]
10. against your will [10.]
11. pleaded [11.]
12. persuade [12.]

Instructions | Text A | Text B | Text C

LIVEWORKSHEETS