CHAPTER III

The hopeless case

Bruno thought it would have made more sense to leave Gretel behind in Berlin, because she was nothing but Trouble From Day One. She was three years older and always acted in charge. Bruno even admitted, secretly, that he was a little scared of her.

Her bedroom was full of staring dolls, and her friends always teased him. One girl sang, "Bruno's not nine, he's only six."

"I'm not six, I'm nine," he protested.

"Then why are you so small?" she laughed. This was true, and it hurt him. He was always shorter than other boys.

At least, in this new house, those bullies were far away.

One day, Bruno entered Gretel's room without knocking. She was arranging her dolls.

"What are you doing in here?" she shouted.

"You didn't bring all your dolls with you, surely?" asked Bruno.

"Of course I did. We'll be here for the foreseeable future."

"What's the foreseeable future exactly?"

"It means weeks from now. Perhaps as long as three."

Bruno sighed. "I hate it here."

The following statements are either true or false. Choose the correct option, then justify it using words as they appear in the text. **Both** parts are required for **[1 mark]**.

1. Gretel intimidates Bruno.

○ True ○ False

Justification

2. Gretel's friends regularly made Bruno feel uncomfortable.

○ True ○ False

Justification

3. Bruno disagrees with the criticism of his physical appearance.

○ True ○ False

Justification

4. Gretel expects the family to remain in their new home permanently.

○ True ○ False

Justification

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

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



Gretel admitted, "It's not very nice, is it?"

Later, Bruno told her he had seen other children. Gretel frowned. "What other children? I haven't seen any."

Bruno led her to his window. Gretel looked out, her doll clutched tightly. At first she only saw sunlight, then her eyes adjusted, and she saw exactly what Bruno was talking about.

CHAPTER IV

What they saw through the window

To begin with, they weren't children at all. Not all of them, at least. There were small boys and big boys, fathers and grandfathers. Perhaps a few uncles too. They were everyone.

"Who are they?" asked Gretel, her mouth open. "What sort of place is this?"



"I'm not sure," said Bruno. "But it's not as nice as home, I know that much."

Gretel stared. From this side of the house, the view was very different. At first it seemed pleasant: a garden, flowers, and a wooden bench. But twenty feet further, everything changed. A tall wire fence stretched beyond sight, supported by heavy posts. On top, spirals of barbed wire shone sharply.

Beyond the fence was only dry ground, low huts, square buildings, and smoke stacks in the distance. People moved everywhere: some carried

Find the words that complete the following sentences. Answer using the words as they appear in the text.

5. Gretel questions Bruno's claim about the presence of other children because she…

6. Gretel initially sees only sunlight, but eventually…

7. Gretel discovers that the surroundings become dramatically different beyond…

Find the word or phrase in the text which means the following:

8. extended

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

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

wheelbarrows, some stood in groups, others limped on crutches or wore bandages. Soldiers marched among them, shouting.

Bruno and Gretel pressed their faces to the glass.

"I don't understand," said Gretel. "Who would build such a nasty-looking place?"

"It is nasty-looking," agreed Bruno.

Suddenly Gretel pointed. A group of children emerged from a hut, huddled together as soldiers shouted at them. When one lunged forward, the children quickly formed a line. The soldiers laughed.

"I told you there were children here," said Bruno.

"Not the type of children I want to play with," replied Gretel. "They look filthy."

Bruno watched silently. One thought came to him at last: all of them were wearing the same clothes—grey striped pyjamas with caps.

"How extraordinary," he muttered.

9. grotesque

10. dirty

11. remarkable

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

- **A.** Bruno feels intimidated by his older sister's controlling behaviour.
- **B.** Bruno rejects Gretel's friends' criticism because he considers it unfair.
- **C.** Gretel believes the family will remain in their new house permanently.
- **D.** The view from Gretel's window initially hides the unpleasant surroundings.
- **E.** Bruno and Gretel initially have different opinions about the new home.
- **F.** Gretel refuses to play with the children mainly because of their clothing.
- **G.** The soldiers appear to frighten the children into following their orders
- **H.** Bruno notices that the people beyond the fence are dressed alike.

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

LIVEWORKSHEETS