



The Standards

W.7.2A Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information, using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.

Questions/Activities to use with students

Paper Hearts, The Boy in the Striped Pajamas & The Journal of Ben Uchida

What choices do people make in the face of injustice? Write an essay by comparing and contrasting choices that the main character(s) in each book made in the face of injustice. Use evidence from the book to support your answers.

RL.7.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of rhymes and other repetitions of sounds (e.g. alliteration) on a specific verse or stanza of a poem or section of a story or drama.

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas

Bruno is mispronouncing the word Auschwitz, which makes it a pun (gives it two meanings). Why would the author want the word to have two meanings? What are some other examples of how the author uses puns in the book?

The Journal of Ben Uchida

Ben often uses irony to describe his experience at Mirror Lake. Why do you think irony helps him cope?

RL.7.5 Analyze how a drama's or poem's form or structure (e.g., soliloquy, sonnet) contributes to its meaning.

Paper Hearts

Why do you think the author used poetry to write this novel? How do the poems contribute to the meaning of the text?

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas

The author calls this book a fable. Name one element of a fable and describe what in the book makes this story a fable.

W.7.9.A Apply grade 7 Reading standards to literature (e.g., "Compare and contrast a fictional portrayal of a time, place, or character and a historical account of the same period as a means of understanding how authors of fiction use or alter history").

Paper Hearts

At the end of the book, the author tells what facts she changed in the book. Write an essay by picking one fact, describe it and compare and contrast it to what actually happened. Explain why you think the author did this.

Paper Hearts by M. Wiviott (2015, Simon & Schuster); *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by J. Boyne (2006, Simon & Schuster) & *The Journal of Ben Uchida* by B. Denenberg (2003, Scholastic)

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