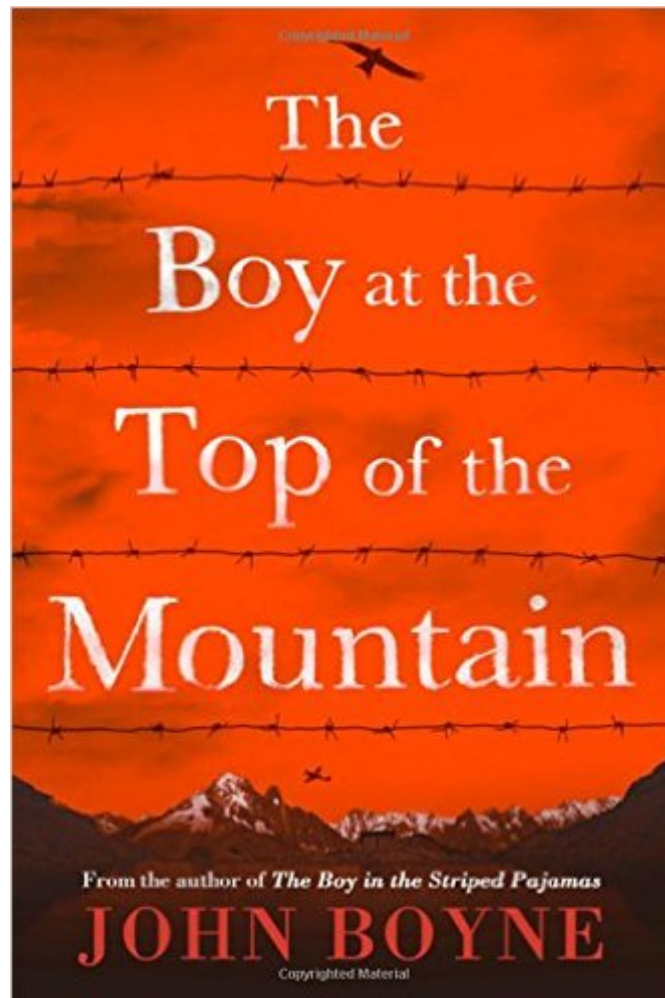


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The Boy At The Top Of The Mountain



Synopsis

From the author of *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* comes another extraordinary story of World War II and innocence in the face of evil. When Pierrot becomes an orphan, he must leave his home in Paris for a new life with his aunt Beatrix, a servant in a wealthy Austrian household. But this is no ordinary time, for it is 1935 and the Second World War is fast approaching; and this is no ordinary house, for this is the Berghof, the home of Adolf Hitler. Pierrot is quickly taken under Hitler's wing and thrown into an increasingly dangerous new world: a world of terror, secrets, and betrayal from which he may never be able to escape. This title has Common Core connections.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 970 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Henry Holt and Co. (BYR) (June 7, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1627790306

ISBN-13: 978-1627790307

Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 0.9 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (34 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #47,797 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #50 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Military & Wars](#) #115 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Orphans & Foster Homes](#) #204 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Values](#)

Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

Customer Reviews

4.5/5 stars John Boyne is the author of *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, a book that showed the horror of concentration camps through the eyes of a child. In this new novel, Boyne has written a story in a similar vein (this time with more grit/violence) that shows the innocence and naiveté of childhood and how easily it can be corrupted. This is a short novel (220-ish pages) but it's packed with a lot of food for thought as it tackles some serious issues. While this book is written for a youth audience I'd suggest it for readers 12 years of age and up since there are some violent scenes which, while they would make for some great discussion with tweens/teens, may be too much for

more sensitive readers. In this new novel, Boyne deftly juggles the horrors of WWII with the innocence of childhood. He showcases how hatred and power can trounce innocence especially when one sees no other worthy options. He includes some touching scenes and some that are hard to witness but Boyne's words bring the reader into the heart of the issues that face this young boy and his unique living conditions. I enjoyed seeing Pierrot's progression from likable protagonist who has lost so much to witnessing his metamorphosis into a very different person. Gradually, Pierrot/Pieter accepts Hitler's teachings, eagerly wanting to have the acceptance, leadership and attention that Hitler could provide, as he transforms into Hitler's little minion. While it was equally sad, maddening and frustrating that Pierrot was such a blind follower to Hitler, Boyne shows how this progression was possible with Pierrot not wanting/needing to think for himself or to think about the ramifications of his decisions.

It's 1936 and seven-year-old Pierrot Fischer is living in Paris with his French mother. Pierrot's German father, who was afflicted by his service in the Great War, left the family shortly after Pierrot's fourth birthday. Although he misses his father deeply, Pierrot is content with his life in Paris with his mother, particularly as he has his best friend, Anshel, to keep him company. One day Pierrot's mother coughs up blood and a few short weeks later she is dead. Pierrot is now an orphan, all alone in the world. He stays with Anshel and his mother for a while, but the single mother doesn't make enough money to support two children so Pierrot is eventually sent to an orphanage. Life is difficult for Pierrot at the orphanage. However, his stay there is short-lived as Pierrot's aunt Beatrix, who he has never met, has been tracked down and wants Pierrot to come live with her. She lives in Austria and is a maid at The Berghof, which is located in the Bavarian Alps. Pierrot's life is about to change irrevocably, as is the trajectory of the world. In preparation for Pierrot's first meeting with the master of the house, Beatrix outfits Pierrot in traditional German attire, informs him that he will now be called Pieter and instructs him not to discuss his life in Paris --- especially not his friend Anshel. You see, The Berghof is the country home of Adolf Hitler. At first, Pieter doesn't know what to make of the Fuhrer and the Fuhrer, who has very little experience with children, doesn't know what to make of Pieter. However, it is not long before the two become companions and confidantes. THE BOY AT THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN follows Pieter's stay at The Berghof until 1945.

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