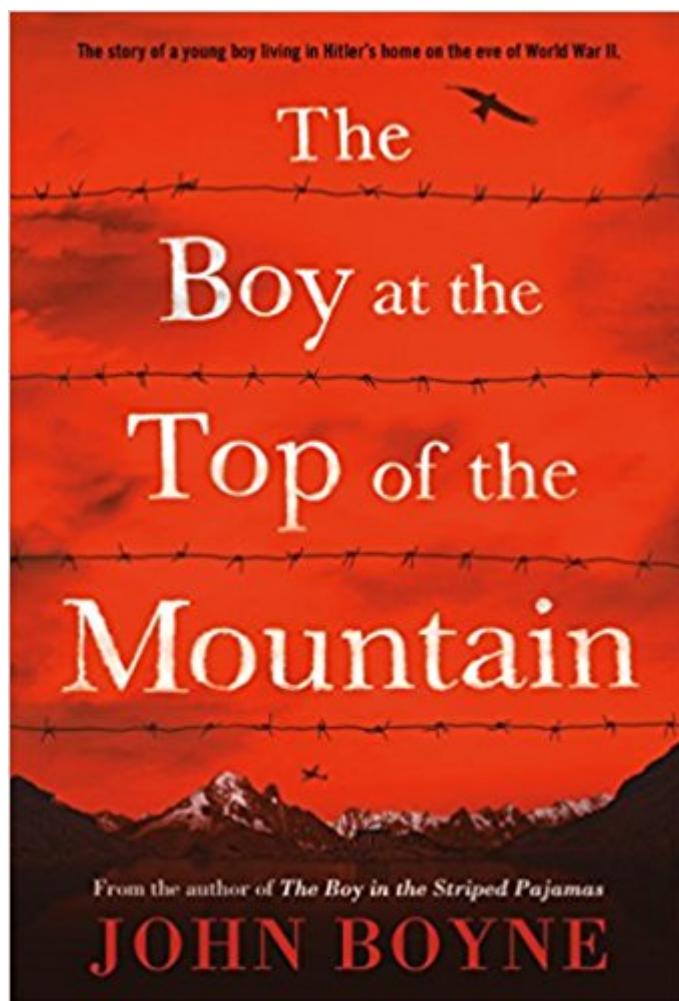


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# The Boy At The Top Of The Mountain



## Synopsis

The Boy at the Top of the Mountain by John Boyne, the author of The Boy in the Striped Pajamas, is another extraordinary historical fiction about 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."With skill and emotional detachment, Boyne tells Pieter's story through descriptions and dialogue that are concise, spare, and vivid . . . Pieter's traumatic childhood, infatuation and interactions with Hitler, adolescent angst, and destructive choices will captivate teens and prompt thought-provoking discussion." School Library Journal, starred review"Boyne's (The Boy in the Striped Pajamas, 2006) story is unarguably a powerful one with an often visceral impact." Booklist"A compelling account of the attractions of power, the malleability of youth and the terrible pain of a life filled with regret." The Guardian"John Boyne delivers a poignant tale of innocence ruined by Nazism. This is a story full of suspense and heartbreak that will leave readers wanting more. Compare this book to The Boy in the Striped Pajamas." School Library Connection

## Book Information

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Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up-The author of *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* (Random, 2006) delivers another powerful allegory in this compelling World War II story about a young boy swept into the fear, zealotry, and bigotry of Nazism. In 1936 Paris, seven-year-old Pierrot Fischer is orphaned. After the deaths of his devoted French mother and troubled, abusive German father, Pierrot is temporarily cared for by his neighbor, the mother of his Jewish friend, Anshel. When his German aunt, a housekeeper at Hitler's Berghof, Berchtesgaden home, sends for Pierrot, his name is changed to Pieter, his friendship with Anshel is denied, and he resides at Berghof with the house staff, awaiting Hitler's periodic visits. Despite the warnings of his aunt, Pieter embraces Hitler's volatile attention and dogmatism, turning against family and friends. With skill and emotional detachment, Boyne tells Pieter's story through descriptions and dialogue that are concise, spare, and vivid. Ahead of Pieter, readers will grasp the impending consequences, pain, and horror of the boy's obsequious relationship with Hitler. Woven into the story are authentic personalities and facts including the dictator's passion for dogs, painting, anti-Semitism, and unquestioning loyalty. Pieter's story offers a lens for examining post-traumatic stress disorder and the violent and coercive extremism of the 21st century. VERDICT Pieter's traumatic childhood, infatuation and interactions with Hitler, adolescent angst, and destructive choices will captivate teens and prompt thought-provoking discussion.-Gerry A. Larson, formerly at Durham School of the Arts, NC (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

"With skill and emotional detachment, Boyne tells Pieter's story through descriptions and dialogue that are concise, spare, and vivid . . . Pieter's traumatic childhood, infatuation and interactions with Hitler, adolescent angst, and destructive choices will captivate teens and prompt thought-provoking discussion." *School Library Journal*, starred review "Boyne's (The Boy in the Striped Pajamas, 2006) story is unarguably a powerful one with an often visceral impact." *Booklist* "A compelling account of the attractions of power, the malleability of youth and the terrible pain of a life filled with regret." *The Guardian* "John Boyne delivers a poignant tale of innocence ruined by Nazism. This is a story full of suspense and heartbreak that will leave readers wanting more. Compare this book to *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*." *School Library Connection*

My son suggested I read this book, and I confess, I started it with reluctance. I finished, however,

glued to the pages by sadness, anger, remorse, and hope. It is not for the faint of heart, but it is equally a story that must not be missed.

This was written from an interesting point of view. I can see how adults can either enlighten a child to new and positive learning or poison them so quickly with destructive thinking. This sensitive young boy changed so quickly to Hitler's ways even to disown his aunt who loved him.

I couldn't put it down from day 1. A worthy if not a greater successor of *The Boy In The Striped Pajamas*, which I had previously read and thought that there was not a book to live up to these standards. A spectacular novel. Found a grammar mistake or two, but the slightest critic. Simple pure greatness. Continue to write these novels. Write more of them in this genre. Can't wait to read the next one. Amazing! =) would recommend it to anyone above 13 and above, who is a history lover such as myself.

First time reading this author's work. Looking at the war crimes of the Nazi era through the eyes of a once innocent child is most impressive. I look forward to reading John Boyne's other works.

Could have used more character development - it was rather simple. Two of us started reading this book but only one finished it; not enough happened to keep interest.

From the author of *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, this book delves into the corruption of innocence of a boy who becomes orphaned in Paris and winds up living in Hitler's mountain get away. It begins to deal with, but not really get into him coming to terms with the aftermath.

Frighteningly realistic. Shows how easily impressionable and vulnerable people - in this case a child - can be influenced and swayed by powerful personalities like Hitler.

This was a very enjoyable novel. It all seemed very realistic and plausible - how ordinary people could be turned into monsters. I was disappointed in the ending. The story wound everything up to neatly and coincidentally. Good novel for discussion.

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