***The Boy in Striped Pajamas***

**Discussion Questions**

**Directions:** Now that we have completed our unit on the early stages of WWII along with the film *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* we want you to reflect on the devastating impact the Holocaust had on Europe. Listed below are six sets of discussion questions which you are free to review and choose any three sets that you feel you can thoughtfully answer. Be sure to address all of the questions in the discussion set in a well-articulated paragraph. Use any evidence from the film or the book that can strengthen your point.

1. Choose one character and analyze his/her development over the course of the film. In what specific ways does the character change? What caused this change to occur? Was this change for the better or the worse? Provide examples from the film to support your analysis.
2. What does the film reveal about the role of propaganda in German society during the Nazi period? Based upon the film, to what degree was this propaganda successful? Provide examples from the film to support your analysis.
3. Think about the mother. How does she respond when she learns the true nature of her husband’s job? How would you have reacted if you were in a similar situation and learned that your spouse’s job involved the murder of innocent people? If this film were set in current times, how might Elsa’s reaction have differed? Explain.
4. Think about the final scene. What do you think is going through the father’s head in that final moment? What is he thinking? Does he regret? If the film had continued on, would this man have changed? Would he still support the Final Solution? Explain.
5. Based upon what you see in this film, to what extent did the average German (those not associated with the Nazi Party) truly understand the Holocaust? Is this an accurate representation? What strategies did the Nazis use to try and reduce how much citizens knew about the true nature of the Final Solution?
6. This movie and the book upon which it is based has drawn some criticism. Some argue that this story oversimplifies the Holocaust by telling the story through the eyes of a little boy. Do you agree with this criticism? Why or why not?