



Introduction to The Boy at the Top of the Mountain

Read the following summary of The Boy at the Top of the Mountain:

The Boy at the Top of the Mountain is a novel by John Boyne that explores the complexities of human nature, morality, and the consequences of one's actions. The story follows a young boy named Pierrot, who is sent to live with his aunt in Germany during World War II.

What do you think the novel will be about based on the summary? Write your thoughts in the space below.

Identifying Themes

Read the following passage from *The Boy at the Top of the Mountain*:


"The greatest atrocities in history have been committed by people who believed they were doing the right thing."

What theme do you think this passage relates to? Write your answer in the space below.

How does this theme relate to the novel as a whole? Write your thoughts in the space below.

Analyzing Symbolism

Look at the following image of the mountain from the novel:

 Mountain Image

What do you think the mountain symbolizes in the novel? Write your answer in the space below.

How does the mountain relate to the theme of identity? Write your thoughts in the space below.

Character Analysis

Read the following description of Pierrot:

Pierrot is a young boy who is sent to live with his aunt in Germany during World War II. He is struggling to come to terms with his new surroundings and the harsh realities of war.

What do you think motivates Pierrot's actions in the novel? Write your answer in the space below.

How does Pierrot's character relate to the theme of morality? Write your thoughts in the space below.

Group Discussion

Group Task:

Work in a group to discuss the following questions:

1. What do you think is the main theme of *The Boy at the Top of the Mountain*?
2. How does the novel portray the theme of identity?
3. What symbolism is used in the novel, and what does it represent?

Write your group's answers to the questions in the space below.

Reflective Writing

Write a reflective essay on the following prompt:

How does *The Boy at the Top of the Mountain* make you think about the theme of identity? Use evidence from the novel to support your argument.

Write your essay in the space below.

Creative Activity

*Create a visual project that represents the theme of identity in *The Boy at the Top of the Mountain*. This could be a drawing, painting, or collage.*

Write a brief explanation of your project in the space below.

Historical Context

*Read the following passage about the historical context of *The Boy at the Top of the Mountain*:*

The novel is set during World War II, a time of great turmoil and upheaval in Europe.

What do you think the author is trying to say about the historical context of the novel? Write your answer in the space below.

How does the historical context relate to the theme of morality? Write your thoughts in the space below.

Comparative Analysis

Read the following passage from another novel that explores the theme of identity:

[Insert passage]

How does this novel relate to *The Boy at the Top of the Mountain* in terms of the theme of identity? Write your answer in the space below.

What similarities and differences do you notice between the two novels? Write your thoughts in the space below.

Conclusion

Individual Reflection:

1. What do you think is the most important theme or symbol in the novel? Write your answer in the space below.
2. How will you apply what you have learned from this novel to your own life? Write your thoughts in the space below.

