

Compare and Contrast Essay

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Schindler's List and *The Boy in Striped Pajamas* are two devastating stories about the holocaust which targeted Jews all around Europe during Adolf Hitler's reign. Both *Schindler's List* and *The Boy in Striped Pajamas* cover the poor living standards that Jews were forced into, and the merciless brutality they endured simply because of that seemingly obsolete fact.

Schindler's List and *The Boy in Striped Pajamas* share many common themes, the most common theme they share is the deprived life-styles the German military forced Jews and non-conformers into. In both movies, the main characters (who are both German, but not with the military) find themselves in difficult positions when they become "wrongfully" acquainted with the Jewish which is a *huge* crime punishable by imprisonment and/or execution if your case is considered severe enough. Both characters display a sense of moral awareness when they show pity for the incarcerated Jews, and go to the lengths of risking (even giving) their own lives and freedom to help the Jews. Both movies are very powerful in the sense that they display the light in the midst of the darkness; or rather, they shine a light on the good deeds that were done in the midst of the war.

While *Schindler's List* and *The Boy in Striped Pajamas* share many commonalities, they also have many differences. *Schindler's List* is much more focused on the reality of the gruesome savagery from the German soldiers against the Jewish people. While *The Boy in Striped Pajamas* alluded towards these horrific acts, *Schindler's List* went in depth to convey the torture they, the Jewish people, endured. *Schindler's List* also portrays the scandalous acts of many of the German soldiers, and the truth that many of them enjoyed giving the Jews undeserved punishment and shooting them down. The movie touchingly depicts a man, whose original aspiration for wealth, ultimately leads to saving hundreds of Jewish lives.

On the other hand, *The Boy in Striped Pajamas* focuses more on the brainwashing aspect of the holocaust. In the movie a german boy who moves away from his friends and his house with his family to live in a new house which is next to a concentration camp. The german boy, being innocent as he is, thinks that the concentration camp is a garden and the the men in “striped pajamas” are garden workers including a little boy in the striped pajamas that he meets. Eventually he finds out that the boy in striped pajamas is a jew, which scares him because his teacher who comes to his house everyday has been telling him that jews are bad. We also see the effect that these teachings have on the german boy’s sister who changes her entire life style to fit the mold that the teacher is pressing her into.

In conclusion, both movies cover the bitter truths and unjust brutality of the holocaust, but they also cover the good-hearted acts that went unnoticed in the midst of this hell fire. *Schindler’s List* and *The Boy in Striped Pajamas* give viewers a terrifying glimpse of the past, and an idea of what it was like to live in that era. All in all, both movies depicted the violence and manipulation that occurred during the era of the holocaust.

Citations

- Spielberg, S. (Director), Keneally, T. (Writer), & Zaillian, S. (Screenwriter). (1993). *Schindler's List* [Video file]. USA: Universal Studios. Retrieved April 16, 2019, from <https://www.netflix.com/>
- Herman, M. (Director), Heyman, D. (Producer), & Boyne, J. (Writer). (2008). *The Boy in Striped Pajamas* [Video file]. USA/UK: BBC Films. Retrieved April 16, 2019, from <https://www.netflix.com/>