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Comparative Essay

Schindler's List and The Boy In The Striped Pajamas are both movies that took place between 1939 and 1945. Both of these movies are showing the brutality and severity of what the Germans put the Jews through during the Holocaust. Although these movies have taken place during the same period, the effect left after viewing is different. Disney's and Steven Spielberg's interpretation of the Holocaust is different.

In The Boy In The Striped Pajamas Disney manages to tell the story of a family living in the time of the Holocaust as Germans. The youngest boy Bruno befriends a Jewish boy in the property next to theirs. Bruno's father is the commandant of the Jewish concentration camp in which his forbidden Jewish friend lives. Throughout the movie, Bruno begins to realize how terrible his father's job is and how horrific the treatment his friend is experiencing. At the end of the film Bruno sneaks into the concentration camp to help his friend find his papa. Little did Bruno know he was sneaking in on a wrong day. In the end, he and his little friend end up in the gas chamber. In this film, Disney can filter out a lot of the horrible things that occurred during this period.

In the movie Schindler's List a German man opened an enamel factory in, and his main man Stern begins to use the factory to save Jewish workers. Stern used the fact that if the workers were deemed essential, they would be exempt from being sent to the death camps. Schindler is unaware of this until Stern brings a one-armed man in to see him and the man continues to thank Schindler for making him an essential worker. Afterward, Schindler chastises Stern for bringing the man to talk to him. Throughout the movie, Schindler begins to realize the wrong in what is happening and is heartbroken in the end that he could not save more people.

Both movies are set in the same period and show horrors of the holocaust they affect the viewers differently. Schindler's List is a vivid account and has no filter or viewer discretion. The movie shows no mercy when it comes to Jewish workers being killed or beaten. The film is also in black and white and the only color shown is a girl in a little red overcoat. When we first see the girl, she is hiding from the soldiers that have come to gather all the jews in that area and send them away. She is alive when we first see her, and then later in the film when the camera rolls over to the Jewish workers carrying their dead family and friends the girl in the red overcoat is one of the dead; the red coat is a message in the movie that some miss. The girl appears at the beginning of the film; she reappears in a pile of bodies. An innocent little girl's life taken tends to upset viewers.

Now, The Boy in the Striped Pajamas is a Disney movie, which is in color and is not as vivid as Schindler's List. Although the movie has more of a heart to it, it is still known to leave the viewers in tears. The film presented a limited visual representation of the treatment towards Jewish workers and more of Bruno's friendship growing with the Jewish boy. The scene that speaks the most has to be when Bruno goes to help his friend find his dad, and both end up in the gas chamber together. The saddest part is that Bruno's family was too late to get to him before he died. Both of these movies are very sad but have different similarities and differences.