



# Teenage Reviews

Please think about the following things when reading your book and writing your review:

How realistic do you think the characters are? Did they seem real to you? Do any of the characters change in the story?

How did the book make you feel? Did it surprise you?

What did you think of the ending?

Which part of the book did you most enjoy?

What do you think of the way in which the story was written? Did it convey mood and atmosphere?

Did the story make you re-think your attitude to something or think about it for the first time?

What was important to you about this story?

**WRITE YOUR REVIEW HERE**

Please use VERDANA font in 10 pt:



**Author: Paul Dowsell**

**Title: Auslander**

**Reviewed by: Amy Smethurst**

**School: Calder High School**

Auslander is set in World War II Poland/Germany. The main character is a young boy called Piotr (Peter) Bruck. When his parents die mysteriously and their Jeep is found overturned in a ditch, Piotr gets sent to an orphanage. When Germany invades Poland, soldiers come to the orphanage to inspect the children to see whether they have the right characteristics (i.e. blue eyes and blond hairs.) Piotr instantly becomes a favourite because he has light blond hair very blue eyes and can speak fluent German.

He is taken on a train to meet his new adopted parents, the Kaltenbach. During the journey, he finds that many Polish city names have been changed to German ones and he gets scolded for greeting another child in Polish. I think that this is one of the earliest signs that life in Poland is going to change. But the language is not the only thing that Piotr finds changing; towards the middle of the book, the reader gets to experience Christmas in wartime Germany. This is very different to the traditional Polish Christmas that Piotr is used to. In his new house in Germany, the tree is decorated with model swastikas and a Christmas carol has been changed to sing about how good a leader Hitler is. I found this quite shocking.

Auslander gave me an insight into the holocaust from a whole new perspective. I found some similarities and differences between "Auslander" and "The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas" and like The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas, we see everything from Piotr's point of view and until later on in the book, he doesn't truly understand what's happening.

His mother understood what was happening right from the start but it takes Piotr a long time to get to grips with what is happening to his country; when he finally does, he decides to help the Jews in the work camp near his home. He also brings food to the other Jews who have been hiding in a friend's house. I think that this shows how Piotr really felt about the Holocaust.

I thought that the amount of historical accuracy that Paul Dowsell used was very impressive. This book not only had a good storyline but was also very informative. I also liked the title it made me think. Auslander means foreigner in German; I think it could be referring to Piotr himself but maybe it's referring to the Jews who they didn't class as proper Germans.

The only fault I had with this book was at the beginning, when Piotr was flashing back to his childhood in Poland, I found it a bit confusing trying to find out what was past and what was present.

I liked the last words of the book "He felt free." They made me really relieved that Piotr had a happy ending after all he had been through.