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The Athol Public Library recently got the book *The Boy At the Top of the Mountain* by John Boyne. It came out fairly recently, June 7 of last year, making the grand total of Young Adult books written by Boyne nine. He's also written five for children.

While this book is written in the same time period as the famous *Boy In the Striped Pajamas*, it's written about a boy who's not that close to the front lines. The main character, Pierrot (later Pieter), is orphaned and taken from his house in Paris. His best friend Ashel agrees to take care of Pierrot's dog D'Artagnan while Pierrot has to go to an orphanage.

Pierrot is taken to an orphanage where he stays a few months, then his estranged Aunt Beatrix sends him train fare to come live at the house where she works; which is on top of a rather large mountain on the border of Germany and Austria. The large house on top of the mountain is known as Hitler's home in Obersalzberg.

During his nine year stay at the Berghof, Pierrot is promoted to junior Hitlerjugend. Due to his increasing sense of power and friendship with Adolf Hitler, Pierrot disregards his French name in favor of a new German one; Pieter. Pieter becomes rude to the housekeepers, and even turns his aunt in to Hitler for conspiring against him.

It's easy to see why Pieter wanted such a close relationship with Hitler. At a young age Pieter's father, a veteran of WWI, never talked about wars with his son, leaving him uninformed about the war in Germany. Pieter sees Hitler as a father figure, someone to look up to because his father was taken from him at such a young age.

This book is full of imagery. The ending was great too, and this is a great example about how power can corrupt someone and completely change them.

Pierrot entered Berghof a sweet boy of nine, and Pieter left a sixteen year old boy who had become plagued by the things he'd done.