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Title: The Boy in the Striped Pajamas

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Why is Bruno surprised that Maria had a life before coming to work for his family? I think that this is an important question to ask because it reveals a lot about Bruno and Maria. I think Bruno’s surprise is partly due to the fact that he doesn’t really remember a time when Maria didn’t work for his family. She has been “part of his family” since he was three years old. To him, she has always been there. When she starts talking about her life before working for his family, he is surprised because he never really thought about her as having a life before being their servant. This is both innocent and sad. It is sad because Maria is a real person with feeling and thoughts, but due to her position in life she is not able to express her thoughts or personality.

My prediction is that Bruno will continue to ask Maria questions and talk to her. This was a step in the right direction for him to see her as a real person and to have more respect for her.