

Chapter 1

A  
Literature Unit

# Anastasia Krupnik

by Lois Lowry

Lois Lowry, the author of *Anastasia Krupnik* and the other books in this series, was born on March 20, 1937, in Honolulu, Hawaii. Other popular books written by Lois Lowry are *A Summer to Die* and *Autumn Street*; both of these were based on the author's real-life experiences. In 1992 Lois Lowry won her first Newbery Medal. It was for *Number the Stars*. She received her second Newbery Medal for *The Giver*, which was published in 1993.

In honor of Lois Lowry's birthday, read *Anastasia Krupnik*.

# Chapter 1

**Vocabulary:** Match the vocabulary word on the left with the definition on the right.

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|---------------------|---|
| ___ 1. astigmatism  | a. disheartening; lessening the confidence of                                       |
| ___ 2. awed         | b. became skilled at  |
| ___ 3. daub         | c. something applied with crude, hasty strokes                                      |
| ___ 4. discouraging | d. eye defect preventing accurate focusing  |
| ___ 5. distaste     | e. a maker of lenses and eyeglasses   |
| ___ 6. hesitation   | f. a pause caused by uncertainty  |
| ___ 7. mastered     | g. filled with a mixture of fear, respect, and wonder                               |
| ___ 8. mutant       | h. gravely; seriously; with ceremony  |
| ___ 9. optician     | i. a strong dislike   |
| ___ 10. solemnly    | j. an individual with traits resulting from an inherited change in genetic material |

## Comprehension & Discussion Questions

1. Why was her father's fourth book, *Bittersweet*, special to Anastasia?

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2. What trait caused Anastasia to refer to herself as "lumb"?

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3. Judge Mrs. Westvessel's decision to give Anastasia's poem an "F."

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4. Describe the lists Anastasia began in her notebook.

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5. Predict why Anastasia's parents were laughing at the end of this chapter.

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## Follow-up Activities

1. Hyperbole is an exaggeration used as a figure of speech. Anastasia used hyperbole to describe Mrs. Westvessel: "I think Mrs. Westvessel is probably...about one hundred and twenty." Write two original examples of hyperbole.
2. Begin your own Things I Love/Things I Hate lists. Add and delete items as your feelings change. Continue for a week or until you complete the unit on *Anastasia Krupnik*. You may keep the lists private, but be prepared to describe how much your lists changed over the course of time.
3. Anastasia also kept a list of important things that happened to her. Make a list of important things that happened to you last year or so far this year.