

Number the Stars

Grades 4-6

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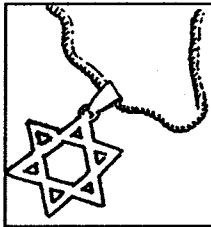
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By LOIS LOWRY

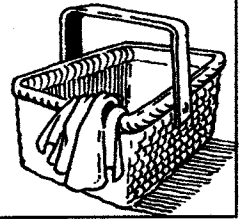
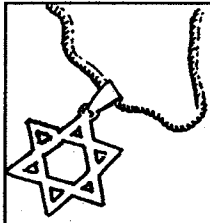


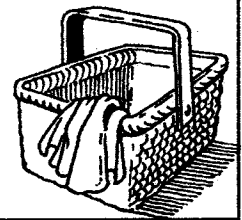
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Expectations

The students will:

- develop a love of and an appreciation for good literature.
- improve and extend independent reading skills.
- practice responding to literature in a variety of creative ways.
- become familiar with the problems the Jewish people had during World War II.

Summary of the Story

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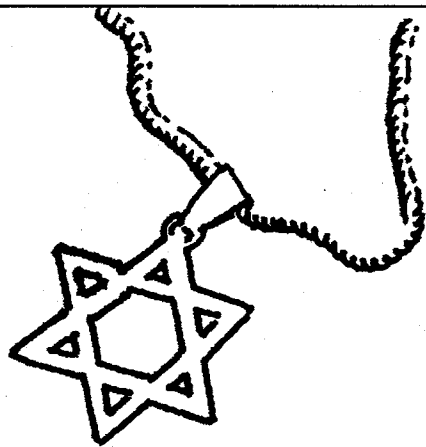
Annemarie Johansen is a ten year old girl who lives with her family in Copenhagen. The Nazis have been occupying Denmark for three years, and Annemarie and her friend Ellen have become quite accustomed to seeing soldiers on every corner. Little sister Kirsti isn't even afraid of them as she cannot remember a time when there were no soldiers.

Annemarie has already suffered tragedy in her life. Three years ago in a traffic accident her beloved eighteen year old sister Lise was killed. Annemarie often peeks into the blue trunk to admire Lise's trousseau, particularly the wedding dress in which she was to have been married just two weeks after her death. Her fiancé Peter Nielson still comes around to visit the younger girls and talk to their parents, but things are just not the same any more.

When the Nazis demand the list of Danish Jews from the rabbis in the synagogue, the underground Resistance movement swings into action and the citizens of Denmark are called upon to hide their Jewish friends and neighbors. Dark-haired Ellen is sent to the Johansen family for shelter, and at this point the tension begins to mount.

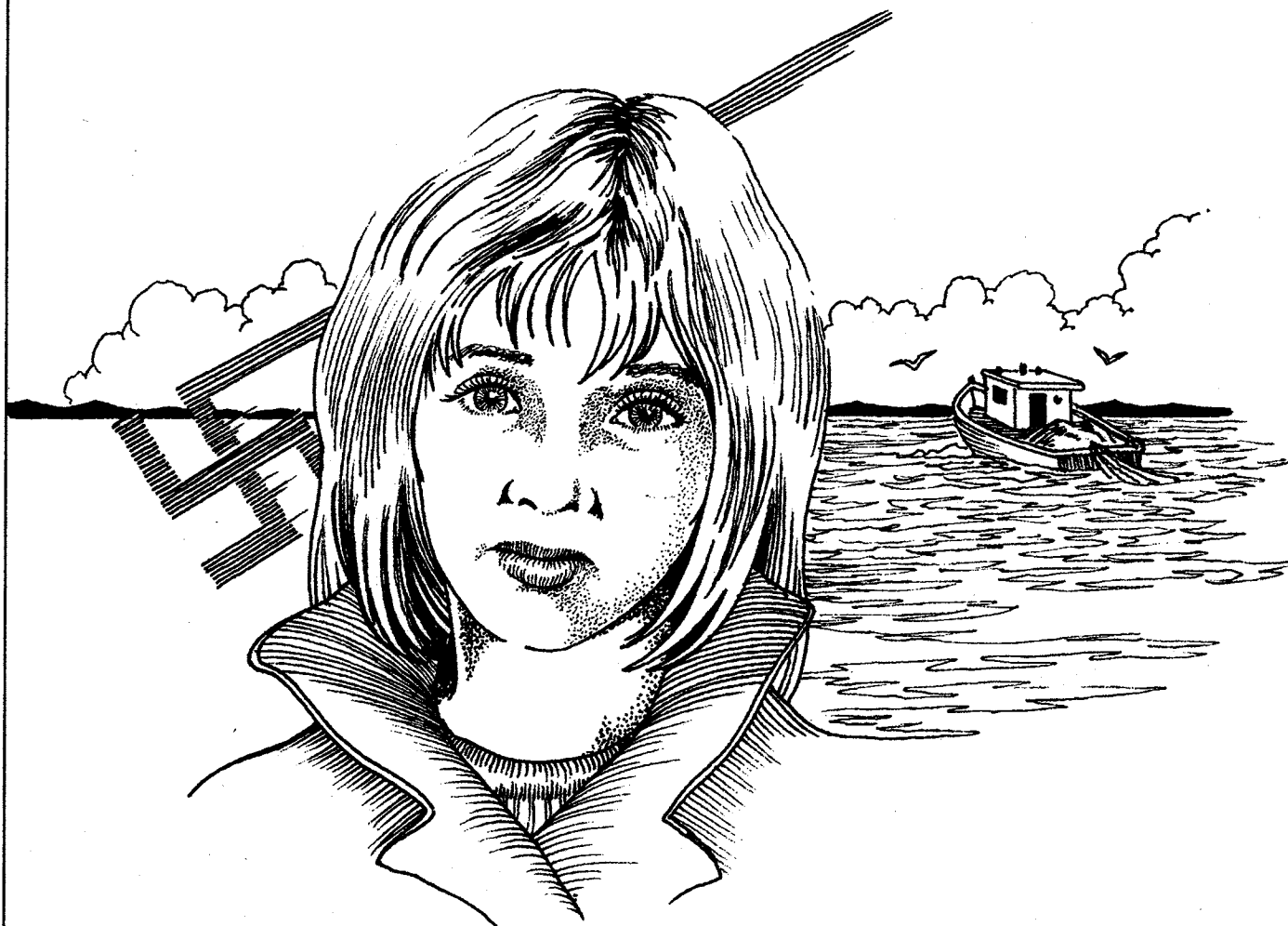
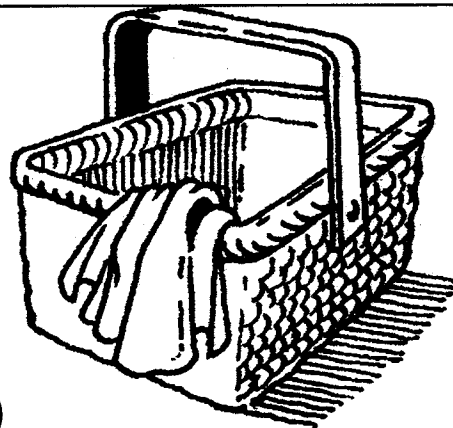
Annemarie and Ellen are asleep when Nazi soldiers come looking for Ellen's family, the Rosens. It's difficult for the Johansens to pass off dark haired Ellen as a member of their family, but quick thinking on Mr. Rosen's part saves them all. A trip to the country where Jewish citizens are being smuggled to Sweden continues to raise the level of suspense and carries the novel to its conclusion.

The story of how the Danish people helped their Jewish neighbors to safety consumes the rest of the book. Annemarie and Ellen are called upon to grow up quickly into an understanding far beyond their years. The day to day heroism of Danish citizens in the face of adversity is celebrated at a level in which young people can easily participate.

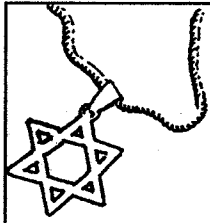


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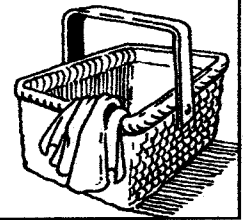


NAME: _____



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Chapter 1: Why Are You Running?

1. For each of the words given, write a short definition that makes sense to you. You may use a dictionary if you need to, or use context to help you figure it out. Then write the word in a sentence of your own to show you understand what it means. The first one is done for you as an example. (page numbers in brackets)

- a) "Go!", shouted Annemarie, and the two girls were off, racing along the **residential** sidewalk. (1)

residential - in a neighborhood where people live

I'd rather live in the country on a farm than in a **residential** neighborhood.

- b) Three years, Annemarie thought with **contempt**. (3)

contempt - _____

- c) He **prodded** the corner of her backpack with the stock of his rifle. (3)

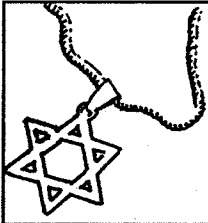
prodded - _____

- d) You look like **hoodlums** when you run. (5)

hoodlums - _____

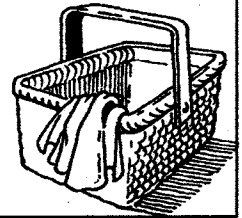
- e) But their **uneasy** looks didn't change. (7)

uneasy - _____



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- f) She's **exaggerating**, as she always does. (7)

exaggerate - _____

- g) ... about the news they received that way: news of **sabotage** against the Nazis ...

sabotage - _____

2. Authors use adjectives to describe their nouns to make their language writing exact, to help paint a word picture for us. Find each of these adjectives in the text. Tell what noun it is used to describe, and what effect it creates in your mind. The first one is done for you as an example.

- a) **stocky** (1)

Lois Lowry uses the word stocky to describe Annemarie. This means that she is short, and strong and muscular, not tall and skinny.

- b) **lanky** (1)

- c) **stubborn** (4)

- d) **obstinate** (4)

