

Individual Learning Packet

Teaching Unit

Number the Stars

by Lois Lowry

Copyright © 2001 by Prestwick House Inc., P.O. Box 658, Clayton, DE 19938. 1-800-932-4593.
www.prestwickhouse.com Permission to copy this unit for classroom use is extended to purchaser for his or her
personal use. This material, in whole or part, may not be copied for resale.

ISBN 13: 978-1-60389-872-0
Reorder No. 201348

Number the Stars

Objectives

By the end of this unit, the student will be able to:

1. relate significant details from the story illustrating the hardships Danish families endured during Nazi occupation in World War II.
2. infer qualities and information about characters and events when these meanings are not explicitly stated.
3. define vocabulary words from the text.
4. identify the following literary devices and give examples from the text:
 - allusion • comic relief
 - flashback • foreshadowing
 - personification
5. explain “stream of consciousness” and analyze the author uses it to create mood and characterization.
6. explain the allusion and symbolism of the title of the book.
7. relate details from the story on each of the following topics: the practices of the Jewish religion, Danish customs and Denmark’s political structure, the significance of the geographical relationship between Denmark and Sweden to the story, and the importance of the Danish resistance in saving the Jews from the Nazis.
8. discuss and give examples to support the following themes:
The courage and resolve of ordinary people who believe in human decency can change the world.
Bravery is easier when the risks are not fully understood.
9. analyze the author’s use of fairy tales to establish theme and character.
10. explain how this book is a coming of age for Annemarie.

Number the Stars

Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. Using the map below, discuss the reasons why Denmark was successful in helping the Danish Jews escape from the Nazis. Include analysis of geographic advantages of Denmark, the characteristics of the Danish people, and the political structure of the Danish government.



Number the Stars

Study Guide Student Copy

Chapter 1 – Why Are You Running?

Vocabulary

Halte – German for “stop”

obstinate – unreasonably determined to have one’s own way; stubborn

Resistance – the organized underground movement in a country fighting against a foreign occupying power

rucksack – a kind of knapsack strapped over the shoulders

1. Why does Annemarie plead with Ellen to race to the next corner?
2. What is the setting of this chapter?
3. Briefly describe Annemarie, Ellen and including a physical description of each girl and a description of each girl’s personality.
4. How do the soldiers react to Kirsti when she refuses to let the one soldier stroke her curls?
5. What is the *De Frie Danske*? Why does Mrs. Johansen believe the soldiers stopped the girls in the street?

Chapter 5 – Who Is the Dark-Haired One?

Vocabulary

imperious – overbearing, arrogant, domineering

Star of David – a six-pointed star; a symbol of Judaism

1. What does Ellen want to be when she grows up? What does she wear around her neck?
2. Annemarie and Ellen talk about Lise's accident. Annemarie remembers that her "Papa looked so angry. He made one hand into a fist, and he kept pounding it into the other hand. I remember the noise of it: slam, slam, slam." (Pg. 41)

What does this description of Papa's reaction to Lise's death suggest to the reader about the nature of her accident?

3. Ellen is worried that the Germans will come into the Johansen home and take her away. Annemarie reassures Ellen by telling her that she is "quite safe, here with us." Why does Annemarie believe Ellen is safe?
4. In what way are the men, who come to search Annemarie's home, different from the soldiers she meets in the street?
5. Why does Annemarie tear Ellen's necklace from her neck?
6. For what reason does Papa tear the three photographs out of the album?

Chapter 10 – Let Us Open the Casket

Vocabulary

condescending – patronizing, mild contempt

psalm – part of the Bible

staccato – abrupt, short sounds, like a burst of gunfire

typhus – an infectious disease

1. State a theme for this story based on the following excerpt from this chapter.
“Who died?” he [the German officer] asked harshly.
No one answered. They watched Annemarie, and she realized that the officer was directing the question at her.
Now she knew for certain what Uncle Henrik had meant when he had talked to her in the barn. To be brave came more easily if you knew nothing.” (Pg. 84)
2. How does Mama trick the German officer?
3. The title of a novel is often an allusion or a reference to a person, place, poem, book, or movie outside the story that the author expects the reader will recognize. Lois Lowry gives the reader the psalm containing the title of the novel as part of Chapter 10. Reread the psalm on pages 86 and 87 and Annemarie’s reaction to the reading of the psalm on page 87. What do you think is the significance of the title of this book?
4. Repetition is the term describing an author’s writing style where he or she repeats a word or phrase in the text to add rhythm or to emphasize an idea. Find an example of this writing technique in this chapter. What idea is Lowry emphasizing with repetition?

Chapter 15 – My Dogs Smell Meat!

Vocabulary

subside – to become less active, intense

1. Why does Annemarie try to behave like Kirsti when she is stopped by the four German soldiers and their dogs?
2. Why do you think this chapter is titled “My Dogs Smell Meat”?
3. Find three instances in this chapter when the German soldiers are unnecessarily condescending or rude to Annemarie.
4. The last item the soldier removes from the basket is the handkerchief. How do the dogs behave when they finally get to smell the handkerchief?
5. At the end of the chapter, Uncle Henrik tells Annemarie that everything is going to be all right because of her. The reader understands that the packet is crucial to the successful rescue of Ellen and the other Jewish people on the boat. Using your imagination, and what you understand about the characters and incidents in the story, theorize why the handkerchief is important to the mission.

Afterword

1. The afterword at the end of this novel answers the question, “How much of Annemarie’s story is true?” (Pg. 133) For each of the following topics, list the ways this fictional novel is historically accurate.
 - A. The character of Annemarie
 - B. Denmark’s surrender to the Nazis
 - C. King Christian’s popularity with the Danish people
 - D. The warning by the Rabbis to the Jewish people
 - E. The Danish people worked together to help their Jewish neighbors
 - F. The handkerchief