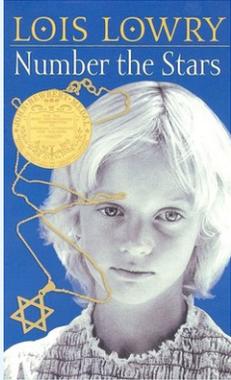


Number the Stars



AUTHOR Lois Lowry
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LA BOOKSHELF GW030
VOICETEXT Yes
LEXILE LEVEL 670L
GRADE EQUIVALENT 4.5

OVERVIEW

Ten-year-old Annemarie Johansen and her best friend Ellen Rosen often think of life before the war. It's now 1943 and their life in Copenhagen is filled with school, food shortages, and the Nazi soldiers marching through town. When the Jews of Denmark are “relocated,” Ellen moves in with the Johansens and pretends to be one of the family. Soon Annemarie is asked to go on a dangerous mission to save Ellen's life.

SUGGESTED GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

- Elements of Setting
- KWL Chart
- Character Traits Worksheet
- Character Map
- Vocabulary Graphic Organizer
- Plot Diagram
- Venn Diagram
- Identifying Theme
- Figurative Language

AUTHOR INFORMATION

Lois Lowry is a beloved author who has written more than thirty books for young adults, most notably *The Giver* and *Number the Stars* for which both won Newberry Medals. Lowry has been the recipient of numerous awards for her fictional works including the Bost-Globe-Horn Book Award, the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award, and many more. Lowry was born in Hawaii in 1937 and grew up in New York, Pennsylvania and Japan. She currently resides in Massachusetts. To learn more about Lois, visit her website www.loislowry.com

BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED

- Information about historical fiction
- Geography of Denmark and Sweden
- Culture of Denmark
 - › King Christian X of Denmark
 - › Scientists who helped aid in detection of Jews fleeing in boats

- World War II and the Holocaust
- Denmark's role in saving Jewish people
 - › Article and pictures from the US Holocaust Memorial Museum www.ushmm.org/outreach/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007740
 - › Danish Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies: www.holocaust-education.dk/holocaust/danmarkogholaust.asp#Redningsaktionen

WRITING PROMPTS

- There is a lot of talk about bravery throughout the story *Number the Stars*. In what ways do the characters show bravery? Cite examples from the story.
- Describe the two main families in the story, the Rosens and the Johanssens. How are they alike? How are they different? In what ways do they help each other?
- Describe Ellen and AnneMarie's friendship. How does friendship play a central role in this story?
- Although *Number the Stars* is a fictional story, in what ways does the story reflect actual pieces of history?

LITERARY DEVICES

Symbolism

- The Star of David necklace – Ellen having to take it off as losing part of her identity.
- Nazi soldiers as “fear”
- Food – symbolizes feelings and connectedness, Nazis stealing food as “losing” friendships, family.
- Seashells – symbolize life before war and vacations by the seashore

Number the Stars

- Great Aunt Bertie's coffin – symbolizes deceit as necessary for survival, growing up

Foreshadowing

- Closing of the Hirsch's shop
- AnneMarie being thankful she was an “ordinary person who would never be called upon for courage.”

Imagery

- Rifles of the Nazis
- Dogs used to find Jews, evoke fear
- Nazis on the corners
- The house by the sea, contrast to the city

Theme

- Importance of human connections
- Courage in the face of fear
- Bystanders and upstanders
- Friendship
- Innocence and growing up
- Grief and loss
- Loyalty

Irony

- Jewish New Year as beginning of “deportation” for Jews
- Ellen's mother being afraid of the ocean, but needing to escape that way.

SUPPORTING MEDIA (graphic novels, movies, video clips)

- Rescue of Danish Jews – Map 1943
www.ushmm.org/outreach/en/media_nm.php?ModuleId=10007740&MediaId=437
- Oral histories of Danish Jews rescued
www.ushmm.org/outreach/en/gallery.php?ModuleId=10007740&MediaType=OI
- Photograph of Danish Jews sailing for Sweden
www.ushmm.org/outreach/en/media_ph.php?ModuleId=10007740&MediaId=837

COMMON CORE BIG IDEAS

- Analyze the effects of setting on important literature
- Articulate major symbols and themes throughout a literary work, citing evidence to back up claims
- Analyze complex fictional characters and plot, relating them to everyday situations
- Identify elements of setting of historical significance in relation to historical fiction.

WAYS TO HELP DIVERSE LEARNERS

- Allow students to use audiobook version at home or in class
- Verbally read chapters of the book aloud while students follow along
- Allow students to use a scribe or Assistive Technology for written assessments
- Provide picture cues for big ideas, vocabulary, lesson objectives, directions
- Change modality of assessment from written work to an approach most successful for student (Visual, Auditory, Kinesthetic)

RESOURCES

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. “Rescue in Denmark.” Holocaust Encyclopedia.
www.ushmm.org/outreach/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007740. Accessed on June 20, 2015.