



Number the Stars

by Lois Lowry

Teacher's Guide

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Synopsis

Chapter 1

It is September 1943 in Copenhagen, Denmark. Annemarie Johansen and her best friend Ellen Rosen, both age ten, race down the street on their way home from school. Two brusque German soldiers stationed at the corner halt the race and frighten the girls with questions about their identity. Annemarie's five-year-old sister Kirsten breaks the tension with her saucy response, and the three girls reach their near-by apartment building with relief. Mrs. Johansen and Mrs. Rosen caution the girls to avoid calling any soldier's attention to themselves. The mothers say the Germans are edgy now because of recent Resistance incidents of anti-Nazi sabotage, which they have read about in the Resistance newspaper that Peter Neilsen brings them occasionally.

Chapter 2

That night Annemarie thinks about kind King Christian, who rides alone through the streets of Copenhagen on his horse, safe because "All of Denmark is his bodyguard." Annemarie also remembers her lovely, gentle older sister Lise, who died in a car accident three years ago at the age of 18, just before she was to have married Peter. Since then, Annemarie muses, Peter has changed from a fun-loving youth to a serious young man who is always hurrying off after his brief visits to the Johansens.

Chapter 3

A few weeks later, Peter visits the Johansens at night, which alarms Annemarie because he is breaking curfew. He brings word that the Germans have issued orders closing many stores run by Jews, which is an indication that the Nazis will now start systematic persecution of

Danish Jews, as they have done to Jews in other German-occupied countries. How will Jewish shopkeepers earn a living if their stores are closed? Annemarie asks. "Friends will take care of them," Mama replies. "That's what friends do."

Annemarie suddenly realizes that the Jewish Rosens could be in danger, then recalls the bodyguard concept: "Now I think that all of Denmark must be bodyguard for the Jews," she says. Back in bed, Annemarie isn't sure she would be brave enough to die to protect her friends. But such courage is only called for in fairy tales, she reassures herself. Ordinary people are never called on to act with such courage.

Chapter 4

Thursday is the Jewish New Year, and Ellen is looking forward to her family's special celebration that evening. Instead, that afternoon, Ellen comes to Annemarie's apartment. The Germans have taken the synagogue lists of the Danish Jews and plan to arrest and "relocate" them all. Peter has taken Ellen's parents away, and Ellen will stay with the Johansens as Annemarie and

Kirsti's "sister."

Chapter 5

Annemarie and Ellen fall asleep feeling safe but are awakened abruptly in the pre-dawn darkness by pounding on the apartment door. German soldiers push their way in, looking for the absent Rosens. Annemarie urgently yanks the Star of David necklace off of Ellen's neck just before the soldiers enter their bedroom. A threatening German officer grabs Ellen's black hair and asks why she is so different from the two other, silvery blonde girls. Mr. Johansen tears three baby portraits out of the family album to show the officer. Each child's name is inscribed on her photograph: Kirsten Elisabeth, Annemarie—and Lise Margrete, with wispy dark curls. Grinding the photos under the heels of their shiny boots, the Germans depart.



Chapter 6

Because the Germans are now suspicious about Ellen, Mrs. Johansen decides she will take the girls to her brother Henrik, a fisherman, at her family home on the coast of Denmark, where you can see free Sweden across the sea. Arrangements are made in a cryptic phone call with Uncle Henrik, with Papa asking "is the weather good for fishing" and saying he is sending Henrik "a carton of cigarettes"—meaning Ellen, Annemarie realizes. Following an unpleasant confrontation with German soldiers on the train, Mama and the girls arrive at Henrik's quiet fishing village and walk the two-mile path to his country cottage.

Chapter 7

Ellen is enthralled with the house and the meadows and the sea views, all very much a part of Annemarie's childhood. But war casts its pall even here: German soldiers are all around, the girls must stay away from people so no one asks who Ellen is, and Mama and Uncle Henrik don't laugh together as they used to.

Chapter 8

When Henrik comes from fishing the next day, he tells Mama, "tomorrow will be a day for fishing." What an odd thing to say, Annemarie thinks. Henrik goes fishing every day. Henrik also tells the girls that Mama has cleaned the front room because their Great-aunt Birte has died, and she will rest there tonight in her casket, with her loved ones in attendance to mourn. But no one called Copenhagen to say a family member had died, Annemarie thinks, and she's never heard of a Great-aunt Birte.

Chapter 9

After supper, Annemarie confronts Uncle Henrik alone in the barn, angrily asking him why he and Mama are lying to her. Henrik responds by asking Annemarie how brave she is. "Not very," she confesses. That's not true, Henrik responds. He thinks Annemarie is like Mama, and Papa, and himself: frightened, but determined, and able to be very brave if circumstances called for her to be. "But," he adds, "it is much easier to be brave if you do not know everything." So he and Mama lied about Great-aunt Birte, to protect Annemarie and help her to be brave. Annemarie understands somewhat and agrees to go along with the fiction of Birte's death. The casket now arrives and is set up in the living room. After dark, "mourners" begin to arrive: an old man, a man and wife with a baby, and, finally, Mr. and Mrs. Rosen, accompanied by Peter Neilsen.

Chapter 10

Uncle Henrik leaves for his boat; everyone else in the house sits silently in the candle-lit living room as the night wears on. A dozing Annemarie awakes abruptly to the familiar nightmare of pounding on the door and staccato boot tramping. A harsh German officer demands to know why the casket is closed. Mama diverts him by explaining that Great-aunt Birte died of typhus, and her body might yet be infectious. The supercilious Germans leave, and Peter reads a psalm for the benefit of any possible listening soldiers outside: "It is He [God] who heals the broken in spirit/And binds up their wounds,/He who numbers the stars one by one."

Chapter 11

Peter opens the casket and distributes its contents: blankets and warm clothing. Peter also gives Mr. Rosen a packet for Henrik, saying he must deliver it "without fail; it is of great importance," but not explaining what the packet contains. Peter then leaves, leading the old man and the young couple with their now-drugged sleeping baby to the harbor and Henrik's boat. Mama prepares to follow after twenty minutes, leading the Rosen family. Annemarie now realizes that Uncle Henrik is going to smuggle all these people in his fishing boat across the sea to Sweden.

Chapter 12

Annemarie wakes up after four o'clock, just before dawn. Mama has left with the Rosens, and she should have been back by three-thirty! Through the window, in the predawn dimness, Annemarie sees a shape lying on the ground. Mama!

Chapter 13

Mama has broken her ankle hurrying home, but everyone has been safely delivered to Henrik and hidden aboard his boat. But as Annemarie helps Mama limp to the house, she suddenly sees at the foot of the steps the packet that Peter had given to Mr. Rosen for Henrik. "My God," Mama murmurs. "It may all have been for nothing." Annemarie, realizing the packet with its unknown contents is terribly important, says she will take it to Henrik, since she knows the way and can "run like the wind." Mama quickly directs Annemarie to fill a small basket with lunch for Uncle Henrik, with the packet underneath the food.

Chapter 14

Annemarie moves as quickly as possible along the path, through the woods and alongside a meadow, thinking

of the Little Red Riding Hood tale with its threatening wolf that she has told so many times to Kirsti. As in her story-telling, Annemarie hears sounds along the way and on a turn of the path comes face-to-face with four armed soldiers and their large, snarling dogs.

Chapter 15

Annemarie tells the soldiers she is bringing his forgotten lunch to her uncle. The soldiers roughly examine the contents of Annemarie’s basket. When they find the packet, a crying Annemarie truthfully says she has no idea what is in it. The soldiers tear it open, with the dogs straining and snarling to get at it, and find—a handkerchief. The dogs lunge at it, sniff, and turn away subsided. The derisive soldiers leave, and Annemarie finally gets to Henrik. He is vastly relieved to receive the packet. All is well now, he says. “I wasn’t sure. But now, because of you, Annemarie, everything is all right.”

Chapter 16

Back at the country house that evening, Uncle Henrik tells Annemarie some details about what has happened, “because you were so very brave.” Annemarie thinks she hasn’t been brave because she was so frightened; she didn’t think about risking her life, she says, she just was thinking about what she had to do. Uncle Henrik responds, “That’s all that brave means—not thinking about the dangers. Just thinking about what you must do. Of course you were frightened. I was too, today.” Realizing that she shouldn’t know everything about the Resistance activities she’s been involved in, Annemarie asks Henrik just to tell her why the handkerchief was so important. The answer: Danish scientists and doctors, working day and night, have developed a solution that temporarily ruins a dog’s sense of smell. The Resistance is supplying all Danish boat captains who smuggle Jews to Sweden a handkerchief soaked in this solution so German dogs can’t detect people hidden on the captains’ boats. Annemarie’s courageous delivery to Henrik was crucial: German soldiers with trained dogs arrived on Henrik’s boat soon after Annemarie left, and Henrik had the handkerchief to neutralize the dogs.

Chapter 17

Two years later, the war ends. Bells ring all over Copenhagen, and in the empty apartments of the city’s vanished Jews, neighbors who have been tending these dwellings hang flags and banners from the windows. Annemarie and her family stand on their balcony, rejoicing and weeping with their nation, remembering Peter, captured and executed by the Germans. After Peter’s death, Annemarie’s parents revealed that Lise had been a member of the Resistance and had been run down by

a German military car pursuing her after a Resistance meeting. Annemarie retrieves Ellen’s Star of David necklace from its hiding place in a pocket of Lise’s engagement-night dress and declares she will wear it herself until Ellen returns to Copenhagen.

Afterword

The author explains the factual background of Annemarie’s story, including the real-life permeated handkerchiefs used by Danish boat captains and the smuggling of almost the entire Jewish population of Denmark across the sea to Sweden.

Timeline

- 1940** Germans army invades and occupies Denmark; Lise, age 18, is killed in a motor vehicle accident.

- 1943**
 - September** Germans plan to start arresting Danish Jews.
 - Sept. 30** On the Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah), Peter takes the Rosens away; Ellen stays with the Johansens; German soldiers search the Johansens’ apartment that night.
 - Oct. 1** Mama takes the three girls to Uncle Henrik’s home on the northern coast of Denmark.
 - Oct. 2** A casket and mourners arrive at Henrik’s; German soldiers come and leave; Peter and Mama lead two small, separate groups to Henrik’s boat.
 - Oct. 3** Annemarie carries the package to Henrik, past questioning German soldiers and snarling dogs.
 - that evening** Uncle Henrik fills Annemarie in on some details of the successful mission to smuggle the Rosens and the others to Sweden.
 - later** The Germans execute Peter for his Resistance activities; Annemarie learns that the Germans killed Lise for the same reason.

- 1945** Annemarie and her family join in the end-of-war celebration at home in Copenhagen, awaiting the Rosens’ return.

Biographical Sketch

Lois Lowry is a highly respected and extremely popular writer of young adult and middle-level fiction. She writes on a variety of themes, always addressing the difficult adolescent and preadolescent problems of self-identity and human relationships, often in an engagingly humorous way. Lowry was born Lois Hammersberg in Honolulu, Hawaii, in 1937; her father was an army dentist, her mother a former schoolteacher. Lois attended elementary school in Pennsylvania and became an early and avid reader and an aspiring writer. In 1948, the family joined Lois's father with the occupation forces in Japan, where Lois enjoyed exploring the bustling, sprawling Tokyo that lay outside the comfortable, familiar American enclave.



The Korean War brought the Hammersberg family back to the United States. Although her high school yearbook photo labeled her "future novelist," Lois quit Pembroke College at Brown University after only two years to marry Donald Lowry, a naval officer, in 1956. By 1963, Lois had four children under the age of five. The family then moved to Maine, where Donald practiced law and Lois raised the children, earned her B.A. degree in writing from the University of Maine in 1972, and did graduate study in literature and photography.

In the 1970s Lowry began writing stories about children, drawing on her own childhood experiences and feelings as well as those of her children. A Houghton Mifflin editor who read some of these stories asked if Lowry would be interested in writing books for children. With her marriage ending, Lowry was definitely interested in a full-time writing career. Her first young adult novel, *A Summer to Die*, was published in 1977, a story infused with the emotions Lowry felt when her own older sister died. Lowry's next book dealt with an adopted girl's search for her biological parents. These and subsequent Lowry novels were greeted by critical praise. In 1979, Lowry published the first of her extremely popular novels about funny, delightful Anastasia Krupnik as she struggles her way through her preteen and adolescent years. *Number the Stars* marked Lowry's return to serious subjects and won her the 1990 Newbery Medal. Lowry's first foray into science fiction, the haunting *The Giver*, won the 1994 Newbery Medal.

Lowry left Maine in 1979 for a less solitary life on Beacon Hill in Boston. She and her partner then bought

an old farmhouse in rural New Hampshire and have split their time ever since between city and country life. They traded in their Beacon Hill apartment for a small house in Cambridge in 1993.

Critic's Corner

Lois Lowry earns high praise from critics, whether for her humorous, family-oriented novels about the difficulties of adolescence or for her more serious novels about death, family origins, the Holocaust, and dystopias. Critical admiration for *Number the Stars* is marked by its being named as the 1990 Newbery Award Medal Winner. Critics especially admired the way in which Lowry conveyed the danger and heroism of the novel's events on a level completely comprehensible to elementary-age readers.

The head of the Newbery committee remarked on this quality: "Lowry creates suspense and tension without wavering from the viewpoint of Annemarie, a child who shows the true meaning of courage." *School Library Journal* called the novel "A moving and satisfying story of heroism in war time which is totally accessible to young readers." *Booklist* recommended the novel in these terms: "Permeated with clear elements of popular appeal as well as rich substance, this novel will also be an ideal support for classroom units on World War II." *Horn Book* summed up, "The message is so closely woven into the carefully honed narrative that the whole work is seamless, compelling, and memorable—impossible to put down; difficult to forget."

Other Works by Lois Lowry

For Young Readers

- A Summer to Die* (1977)
- Find a Stranger, Say Goodbye* (1978)
- Anastasia Krupnik* (1979)
- Autumn Street* (1979)
- Anastasia Again!* (1981)
- Anastasia at Your Service* (1982)
- Taking Care of Terrific* (1983)
- The One Hundredth Thing About Caroline* (1983)
- Anastasia, Ask Your Analyst* (1984)
- Us and Uncle Fraud* (1984)
- Anastasia on Her Own* (1985)
- Switcharound* (1985)
- Anastasia Has the Answers* (1986)
- Rabble Starkey* (1987)
- Anastasia's Chosen Career* (1987)
- All About Sam* (1988)
- Your Move, J.P.!* (1990)
- Anastasia at This Address* (1991)

Attaboy, Sam! (1992)
The Giver (1993)
Anastasia, Absolutely (1995)
See You Around, Sam! (1996)
Stay! Keeper's Story (1997)
Looking Back: A Photographic Memoir (1998)
Zooman Sam (1999)
A Friend in Need (1999)
Gathering Blue (2000)
Gooney Bird Green (2002)
Silent Boy (2003)
Messenger (2004)
Gossamer (2006)
Gooney Bird and the Room Mother (2006)
Gooney the Fabulous (2007)

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Internet

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 <www.loislowry.com>
 Lowry Page
 <www.scils.rutgers.edu/~kvander/lowry.html>
 Lois Lowry: Teacher Resources Unit
 <falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/lowry.htm>
 Lois Lowry at Scholastic Inc.
 <content.scholastic.com/browse/contributor.jsp?id=3326>
 "Number the Stars" (Carol Hurst's Literature Site):
 <www.carolhurst.com/titles/numberthestars.html>

General Objectives

- 1.To gain an understanding of the Holocaust
- 2.To become familiar with the course of World War II in Europe
- 3.To note the effects of war on the civilian populations of occupied territory
- 4.To develop a definition of heroism
- 5.To study the nature of courage, and accompanying fear, and the extent of people's obligation to help their fellows
- 6.To analyze the nature of loyalty and friendship and consider what demands and limits they include
- 7.To learn about ways in which resistance movements worked against Nazi control in occupied countries during World War II

Specific Objectives

- 1.To identify the ways in which characters in the novel risk their own lives to help save the Rosens and other Danish Jews
- 2.To understand the alternative that the Rosens and other Danish Jews face if they fail to escape to Sweden
- 3.To analyze why the non-Jewish characters in the novel act to help their Jewish countrymen and -women in spite of the terrible danger in which this places them and their families
4. To become familiar with the effects of the Nazi occupation of Denmark on the Danish people

5. To examine the portrait of German soldiers and officers that Lowry paints in this novel
6. To interpret the meaning of the novel's title
7. To study the historic event on which the novel is based: the non-Jewish Danish people's smuggling of almost all of Denmark's Jews across the sea to safety in Sweden
8. To consider the question of why the non-Jewish Danish people acted to protect Danish Jews while non-Jewish people in other Nazi-occupied countries did not do so on a large, effective scale

Literary Terms and Applications

To enhance students' appreciation and understanding of the novel, present them with these terms.

Flashback: a scene inserted into a film, play, or work of fiction showing events that happened earlier; also known as analepsis. The flashback device allows an author to fill in background information about characters and events, explaining things that happened before the time when the work opens. In this novel, for example, Annemarie remembers in a flashback the story Papa told her when the war broke out about hearing a boy say that all of Denmark would be King Christian's bodyguard. Other flashbacks include the remembered night when the Danes blew up their naval vessels and the discussion in which Papa and Mama reveal to Annemarie how and why Lise really died.

Foil: a literary opposite or contrast. In this novel, Kirsti is a foil to her older sister Annemarie, acting with the impetuosity and unpredictability of a five-year-old, increasing the tension of any interaction with Germans by possibly being on the brink of saying something dangerous or provoking. As Annemarie slowly reaches an understanding of what's going on, little Kirsti remains totally oblivious to any danger or tension.

Foreshadowing: hints or suggestions about something that will occur later in a novel. A number of elements in this novel's opening chapters suggest later events. Critical Question #8 in the "Comprehension Study" section of this guide asks students to identify these elements and provides examples of them.

Historical fiction: a narrative that presents an imaginative series of events occurring in an actual historical setting. The characters may be both fictional (for example, members of the Johansen and Rosen families) and his-

torical (e.g., King Christian). The author often does considerable research to incorporate much accurate everyday detail into the novel. In this case, Lowry got many details from her Danish friend Annelise Platt, whose memories of childhood life in wartime Copenhagen inspired the novel, and Lowry also visited Denmark to gather more details and also to improve the sense of place in the novel.

Point of view: the vantage point from which the action of a story is seen and told. This novel uses Annemarie's point of view, told in the third person. Other people's thoughts and character are revealed by their actions and words as witnessed by Annemarie, and the significance and meaning of actions and words are filtered through the limited understanding of our ten-year-old protagonist, which keeps the novel at the comprehension level of its young readers.

The Importance of Setting

The first part of the novel takes place in Annemarie's quiet residential neighborhood in northeast Copenhagen, Denmark, full of apartment buildings, small shops, cafes—and German soldiers on the street corners. Annemarie lives with her family in a modest two-bedroom apartment that is lighted in the evenings by candles, due to strict wartime rationing of electricity. It is here that Peter Neilsen brings the Johansens news of Resistance activities and a warning about Nazi plans to arrest Danish Jews. A frightening night scene takes place here when the German officers pound on the door, enter and search for the Rosens, and eye dark-haired Ellen with deep suspicion.

The day after this incident, Mama and the girls leave Copenhagen, taking a long, beautiful train ride north along the Danish coast to Mama's home village of Gilleleje, where Uncle Henrik lives in his and Mama's childhood home. The village smells nicely of salt and fish, and beyond it, the old red-roofed farmhouse and its surrounding meadows are charming, an idyllic childhood paradise in prewar times. The meadows look out over the North Sea to Sweden, a country unconquered by the Nazis. Behind the house is a barn and pasture for Henrik's milk cow, Blossom. Mama bustles about the house doing all the cleaning that bachelor Henrik seems never to bother with. On the second night, a casket supposedly bearing the fictional Great-aunt Birte arrives; "mourners" soon appear, and everyone gathers in the formal living room; again, German soldiers burst

in here in another terrifying middle-of-the-night scene.

After Mama breaks her ankle on the way home from the harbor, Annemarie must run with the all-important packet in the predawn darkness along the twisty woods path latticed with thick roots hidden under fallen leaves; here, just before reaching the harbor, Annemarie has her frightening encounter with the German soldiers and their snarling dogs. Back in Uncle Henrik's barn, Annemarie learns from Henrik some details about what has been happening and why getting the handkerchief-packet to him was so important. The novel's final scene takes place back in Copenhagen two years later, with Annemarie, Kirsti, and their parents standing on their apartment balcony watching the celebration at war's end.

Cross-Curricular Sources

Fiction

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 Nathaniel Benchley, *Bright Candles: A Novel of the Danish Resistance*
 Tamar Bergman, *Along the Tracks*
 Claire Hutchet Bishop, *Twenty and Ten*
 Malka Drucker and Michael Halperin, *Jacob's Rescue*
 James Forman, *The Traitors*
 Bette Green, *Summer of My German Soldier*
 Anne Holm, *North to Freedom*
 Roberto Innocenti and Christophe Gallaz, *Rose Blanche*
 Judith Kerr, *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit*
 Carol Matras, *Code Name Kris, Lisa's War, and Greater Than Angels*
 Harry Mazer, *The Last Mission*
 Uri Orlev, *The Island on Bird Street*
 Leonie Ossowski, *Star Without a Sky*
 Vera W. Propp, *When the Soldiers Were Here*
 Hans Peter Richter, *Friedrich*
 Art Spiegelman, *Maus: A Survivor's Tale* and *Maus II: And Here My Troubles Begin*
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 Ida Vos, *Dancing on the Bridge* and *Avignon*
 Gloria Whelan, *Goodbye, Vietnam*
 Elie Wiesel, *Night*
 Laura E. Williams, *Behind the Bedroom Wall*
 Jane Yolen, *The Devil's Arithmetic*

Nonfiction

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 David Adler, *We Remember the Holocaust*
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 Robin Cross, *Children and War*
 Olga Drucker, *Kindertransport*
 Anne Frank, *The Diary of a Young Girl*
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 Ellen Levine, *Darkness Over Denmark: The Danish Resistance and the Rescue of the Jews*
 Sharon Linnea, *Raoul Wallenberg: The Man Who Stopped Death*
 Anita Lobel, *No Pretty Pictures: A Child of War*
 Milton Meltzer, *Never to Forget: The Jews of the Holocaust and Rescue: The Story of How Gentiles Saved Jews in the Holocaust*
 Kin Mochizuki, *Passage to Freedom: The Sugihara Story*
 Jayne Petit, *A Time to Fight Back: True Stories of Wartime Resistance*
 Barbara Rogasky, *Smoke and Ashes: The Story of the Holocaust*
 Renee Roth-Hano, *Touch Wood: A Girlhood in Occupied France*
 Johanna Reiss, *The Upstairs Room*

CD-ROMs

Stories from the Warsaw Ghetto (Montparnasse)
Survivors: Testimonies of the Holocaust (Knowledge Adventure)

Internet

"Castles on the Web": www.castlesontheweb.com/
 "Denmark":
www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/da.html
 Web links for Holocaust teaching, Holocaust in literature, etc.:
home.gwi.net/~jml/holocaust5.htm
 "Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies—Excerpts from Testimonies":
www.library.yale.edu/testimonies/excerpts/index.html
 "The Holocaust: A Learning Site for Students":
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 "Rescue in Denmark":
www.ushmm.org/outreach/denmark.htm
 "Resistance and Rescue: Denmark's Response to the Holocaust":
www.upenn.edu/ARG/archive/randr/randr.html

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Videos/DVD

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The Diary of Anne Frank (20th Century-Fox)
Holocaust Hero: A Tree for Sugihara (Chip Taylor Communications)
Life Is Beautiful (Miramax)
Memories of Anne Frank (NIS/Films for the Humanities & Sciences)
Miracle at Midnight (Disney Educational Productions)
This Is Also Denmark (Country Profiles Series) (Phoenix Films & Video)
A Visit with Lois Lowry (Houghton Mifflin)
We Must Never Forget: The Story of the Holocaust

Themes and Motifs

A study of the central issues and situations in *Number the Stars* should include these aspects.

Themes

- courage of ordinary people in time of need
- self-doubts about one's own bravery
- death of a family member
- protecting friends, neighbors, and fellow citizens
- German/Nazi cruelty and oppression
- idealism, commitment to a cause
- powerlessness
- true friendship

Motifs

- Red Riding Hood
- fishing
- wartime shortages
- pleasures of prewar life
- family life
- a five-year-old's unpredictability and naiveté
- fairy tales

Meaning Study

Below are words, phrases, or sentences that have a particular meaning in the novel. Explain each as it relates to the book. Use the chapter and page numbers given in parentheses to reread the term in context if you wish.

1. Of course it wasn't real coffee, though the mothers still called it that: "having coffee." There had been no real coffee in Copenhagen since the beginning of the **Nazi occupation**. (Chapter 1, p. 6)
(In 1940, the German army invaded Denmark with an overwhelming force; Denmark's small armed forces had no possibility of effectively fighting back, so the country surrendered to Germany. The German

army then occupied Denmark and ran everything—government, schools, hospitals, newspapers, transportation, commerce. The Nazis were the political party of Adolf Hitler. Once the Nazis took power in Germany, they began their campaign of persecuting and then eradicating Jews and other ethnic groups, a process they expanded to the countries they took over during World War II. Annemarie and her family have endured many discomforts during these first three years of the German occupation. Now, the Nazis are about to begin their anti-Jewish campaign in Denmark, as the Johansen and Rosen families are about to find out.

2. The **Resistance** fighters were Danish people—no one knew who, because they were very secret—who were determined to bring harm to the Nazis however they could. (Chapter 1, p. 8)

(This is a secret group of people who resist Nazi control of Denmark in a variety of ways—e.g., bombing factories, sabotaging vehicles and railroad lines, printing and distributing an underground paper to report on these activities and to promote more resistance. Lise had been a member of the Resistance and was killed by the Germans for this, although her parents didn't know about Lise's Resistance activities until after her death. Peter is also a member of the Resistance, and he too is killed by the Germans because of this. Uncle Henrik works for the Resistance by smuggling Jews, hidden in his fishing boat, across the sea to free Sweden. Ordinary Danish people also participate in Resistance activities at times, as when Annemarie and her parents help get the Rosens out of Denmark.)

3. *Die Frie Danske—The Free Danes*—was an illegal newspaper. (Chapter 1, p. 7)

(Die Frie Danske is the Danish title of this newspaper; translated into English, it's The Free Danes, "Dane" being a citizen of Denmark. The newspaper is illegal because it is published by members of the Resistance, not by the Germans who control Denmark now, and it reports on prohibited Resistance activities, which the German-controlled Danish newspapers do not write about.)

4. Mama had been crocheting that evening three years ago: the lacy edge of a pillowcase, part of Lise's **trousseau**. (Chapter 2, p. 14)

(A trousseau consists of the personal belongings that a bride brings with her to her new household, usually including clothing, accessories, and linens made

especially for this occasion. Lise's trousseau is kept in the blue carved trunk in Annemarie's bedroom; it includes beautiful items hand-crocheted and -embroidered by Mama. Annemarie likes to open the trunk and touch Lise's trousseau items gently when she is alone in the apartment while she sadly remembers her much-loved older sister.)

5. "Mama, it had a **swastika** on it." (Chapter 3, p. 21)

(A swastika is a Greek cross with the ends of the arms extended at right angles in all the same rotary direction. It was the symbol of the Nazis. Annemarie knows that the Germans put the sign on the suddenly padlocked Hirsch shop because of the swastika on the sign. Annemarie doesn't understand, but Mama realizes this is a disturbing sign that the Nazis are beginning their persecution of Danish Jews.)

6. "It's the **Jewish New Year**." (Chapter 4, p. 32)

(The Jewish New Year is marked by Rosh Hashanah, a high holy day; it is observed in early fall. This year, 1943, Danish Jews attending New Year observances at their synagogues on September 30 learn that the Nazis plan to begin arresting and "relocating" Denmark's Jews. What started as a happy day turns somber

8. "This morning, at the synagogue, the **rabbi** told his congregation that the Nazis have taken the synagogue lists of all the Jews." (Chapter 4, p. 35)

(A rabbi is the chief religious official of a synagogue and acts as the spiritual leader of the Jewish community. The synagogue is the Jewish house of worship and assembly, a center for prayer, education, and communal welfare. Those people who regularly attend services and meetings at a synagogue are its congregation. Each synagogue would keep a list of members of its congregation. By taking all these lists from Danish synagogues, the Nazis gain a master list of all of Denmark's Jews. The Nazis can use each synagogue's list to identify, find, and seize all the Jews within a given area. This news spurs the Rosens to flee and the Johansens to take in Ellen as a third "daughter.")

9. Soon they would have to draw the **black curtains** that all Danes had on their windows; the entire city had to be completely darkened at night. (Chapter 4, p. 37)

(During World War II, in German-occupied countries, in Great Britain, and in parts of the United States as well, civilians were required to have blackout cur-

tains on their windows. People had to draw the curtains in the evenings as soon as it got dark, so absolutely no light escaped. The purpose was to make population centers—cities, towns, even villages—invisible from the air, so they would not present an inviting target for bomb-carrying enemy airplanes. Here, Papa draws the blackout curtains across their apartment windows in Copenhagen. Later, the Nazi officer orders the "mourners" at Uncle Henrik's house to put out the candles or pull the blackout curtains down.)

10. Ellen ... lifted her dark hair away from the thin gold chain she wore around her neck—the chain that held the **Star of David**—and began to brush her thick curls. (Chapter 5, p. 41)

(The Star of David is a hexagram used as a symbol of Judaism. Ellen always wears a Star of David on a chain around her neck. When the Germans invade the Johansens' apartment looking for the Rosens, Annemarie instantly realizes that if the Germans see Ellen's Star of David, they will know she is Jewish and is undoubtedly the girl they're looking for. When Ellen, panicked, can't unlatch the chain, Annemarie rips it off her friend's neck and hides it in her clenched fist.)

11. It was so long a time since they had dared to use the strictly **rationed** electricity after dark that the light in the room seemed startling to Annemarie, watching through the slightly opened bedroom door. (Chapter 5, p. 43)

(In German-occupied Denmark, the ruling Nazis have strictly limited the amount of electricity available to Danish families and businesses. The amount of electricity the Johansens are allowed to use is so little, the family lights its apartment with candles every evening—except when the Germans make their frightening nighttime appearance demanding to know where the Rosens are.)

12. The gleaming wooden **casket** rested on supports in the center of the living room and was surrounded by the fragile, papery flowers that Annemarie and Ellen had picked. ... (Chapter 10, p. 80)

(A casket, or coffin, is a box or chest in which the body of a dead person is buried. Mourners are people who show signs of grief or sorrow for the death of a particular person. In this case, the casket is full of blankets and warm clothing for the Jewish people who are pretending to be mourners but are actually about to flee aboard Henrik's boat to freedom in

Sweden. The Danish custom of friends and family members gathering at home around the casket of a deceased loved one provides a cover for the fleeing Jews to assemble openly at Henrik's house.)

Comprehension Study

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important, and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

Questions 1-4 (Literal Level)

1. In what ways is life in wartime occupied Denmark different from prewar life for Annemarie and her family?

(German soldiers are everywhere, with their high shiny boots and guns, watching and controlling the day-to-day existence of the Danish people—as when the soldiers order Annemarie and Ellen to stop running and question them about their identity. Tivoli Gardens, which Annemarie loved, is closed; the Germans don't allow light-hearted amusements for the conquered Danes. Many food items are in short supply: Mama and Mrs. Rosen sip herb-flavored hot water because they have no coffee or tea; Kirsti can't have cupcakes because there is no sugar or butter; meat goes to the Germans, not the Danes. Papa misses his cigarettes. Electricity is so strictly rationed that the Johansens light their apartment with candles in the evenings. Fuel is in very short supply, too; often the Johansens' apartment is cold, and Annemarie feels lucky to share a bed with Kirsti so they can warm each other. The saddest change from prewar days is that Lise is now dead, killed by the Germans for being a member of the Resistance.)

2. Who was Lise? How did she die? How do members of Annemarie's family deal with Lise's death?

(Lise was Annemarie's much older sister, who died three years before the main events of this novel, at the age of 18, just before her planned marriage to Peter Neilsen. Lise and Peter were at a secret Resistance meeting that the Germans raided. As Lise fled the scene, Germans driving a military car ran her down. Since then, Mama and Papa never speak about Lise, nor do they open the trunk filled with Lise's trousseau items and wedding dress. Annemarie, though, does open the trunk when she's in the apartment alone, and touches Lise's things gently while remembering her much-loved sister. Kirsti is too young to have any but the most remote

memories of Lise.)

3. Why does Ellen stay with Annemarie and the Johansen family, pretending to be Annemarie's sister? Why do Ellen and her parents have to flee Denmark secretly?
(The Germans have taken the synagogue lists of Denmark's Jews, and word has spread about the Germans' plans to arrest and "relocate" all Danish Jews. The Johansens take Ellen in, planning to pass her off to any inquiring Germans as their third daughter, Lise. It's not possible to hide Mr. and Mrs. Rosen in the Johansens' small apartment, so Peter spirits Ellen's parents out of Copenhagen into hiding. Ellen and her parents reunite at Uncle Henrik's house and then hide aboard the fisherman's boat while Henrik takes them across the sea to Sweden, a country that is not occupied by the Germans. This is necessary, for the Rosens and all Danish Jews, to avoid the Nazi plan to "relocate" them all to concentration and labor camps in eastern Europe, where most of them would die.)

4. What is the Resistance? How do various characters in the novel play a part in the Resistance?
(The Resistance is a secret group of Danish people who work to harm the Nazis in any way they can—for instance, by bombing factories and damaging German trucks and cars. Peter Neilsen is a member of the Resistance, constantly on the move as he passes on information and carries out anti-German missions. Peter gets Mr. and Mrs. Rosen safely out of Copenhagen and to Uncle Henrik's and then leads one group of people from Henrik's house to Henrik's boat on the crucial night. Mama plays her part, too, by taking Ellen to Uncle Henrik's and then leading the second group on the nighttime walk to Henrik's boat. Henrik is deeply involved in Resistance activities by smuggling small groups of Jews across the sea to Sweden to escape the Nazi concentration-camp plans for them. Annemarie, too, in spite of her fears, carries out the mission of bringing the missing handkerchief-packet to Uncle Henrik on his boat just before the Germans and their trained dogs arrive to search for hidden refugees. Lise died because of her Resistance activities before the main action of the novel begins.)

Questions 5-7 (Interpretive Level)

5. In what ways does Annemarie act bravely, with courage? What fears and doubts about her courage does Annemarie feel?

(Annemarie is frightened when the street-corner soldier stops and questions her, but she is brave enough to answer calmly. At home, Annemarie bravely declares that “all of Denmark must be bodyguard for the Jews,” but then isn’t so sure she would really be brave enough to risk her life to protect even the Rosens. When the German soldiers search the Johansens’ apartment, Annemarie quickly yanks off Ellen’s Star of David necklace and, although terrified, bravely hides it in her clenched hand while answering the Nazi officer’s question. After this frightening night visit, Annemarie realizes how dangerous it is to continue sheltering Ellen, but she has no thought of not doing it. Later, when Uncle Henrik asks Annemarie how brave she is, she answers, “Not very.” But Henrik disagrees, saying, “I think you are like your mama, and like your papa, and like me. Frightened, but determined, and if the time came to be brave, I am quite sure you would be very, very brave.” But, Henrik adds, it is easier to be brave if you don’t know everything about what’s going on. What Henrik says turns out to be true, as Annemarie very bravely rushes along the path to bring the handkerchief-packet to her uncle at the boat, in spite of the acute danger of being discovered by Germans. When she does encounter the harsh soldiers and their snarling dogs, Annemarie is able to remain calm and act like an empty-headed, innocent child bringing a lunch basket to her uncle, even though she is terrified and has no idea what the packet contains. At the boat, Uncle Henrik praises Annemarie for acting bravely. She protests that she wasn’t brave because she was very frightened, and she didn’t even think about the fact that she was risking her life. Henrik replies, “That’s all that brave means—not thinking about the dangers. Just thinking about what you must do.”)

6. Why do Annemarie, her parents, Henrik, and Peter help the Rosens and other Jews escape to Sweden?

(When the Germans start closing Jewish shops and Annemarie wonders how these former shopkeepers will earn a living, Mama says, “Friends will take care of them. That’s what friends do.” This is the simple response of the Johansens, Peter, and the Danish people to the Nazi plans to “relocate” all Danish Jews. As Papa says, Danish Christians don’t even know what “relocation” means, but “We only know that it is wrong, and it is dangerous, and we must help.” So they do, in whatever small or large ways they can, helping to get Danish Jews to the northern

coast and smuggling them by boat across the sea to freedom in Sweden.)

7. What picture of German officers and soldiers does the novel draw?

(It’s not a pretty picture. The soldiers look at even young children with cold, glaring eyes and speak harshly and loudly to them. German soldiers and officers alike treat Danes with contempt, not bothering to learn to speak Danish well, commandeering all the better food like butter and meat for themselves. When German officers barge in to question the Johansens, at their apartment and at Uncle Henrik’s house, they act angry, they glare, they bark questions, they look grim, they laugh scornfully, they sneer, they speak harshly and condescendingly. One officer even slaps Mama across her face. The Germans wear high shiny boots and carry guns. The Germans in this novel are frightening and very threatening.)

Questions 8-10 (Critical Level)

8. What examples of foreshadowing—hints about events that will happen later—do you find in the novel’s first two chapters?

(Answers will vary somewhat. Examples include the following: Annemarie’s talent for running suggests an important use of this talent later on. The contrast between Ellen’s dark curls and Annemarie’s silvery blond hair later captures the attention of the angry German officer who searches the Johansens’ apartment. The German street soldiers’ harsh questioning is repeated in later encounters between Annemarie and German soldiers and officers. The fact that Peter brings copies of the Resistance newspaper suggests his involvement in that secret movement. Annemarie’s comment that Sweden is still free, not occupied by Germans, and her memory of looking across the sea to Sweden from behind Uncle Henrik’s house suggest the later smuggling of Danish Jews to Sweden by boat from Uncle Henrik’s village harbor. The anonymous boy’s comment about all of Denmark being King Christian’s bodyguard precedes Annemarie’s later statement that all of Denmark will have to be bodyguard for the Danish Jews. And Annemarie’s declaration that she would be willing to die to protect the king introduces the theme of courage and being willing to die to protect the Rosens that emerges later in the novel.)

9. What role does Kirsti play in the novel?

(Stubborn little Kirsti acts as a foil to Annemarie, her

five-year-old unpredictability and lack of understanding of the true situation providing a strong contrast to Annemarie's growing awareness of danger and of the necessity of answering Germans' questions very carefully and neutrally. Each encounter with German soldiers and officers is tense, and Kirsti's presence heightens the tension, as Annemarie worries that her little sister will say just the wrong thing that will enrage the Germans or reveal something she shouldn't. For example, when the German soldier asks Mama if she is celebrating (Jewish) New Year, and Kirsti pipes up, Annemarie is panicked that Kirsti might say that their friend Ellen is having her New Year.)

10. What is the meaning of the novel's title?
(The phrase "number the stars" comes from Psalm 147, which Peter reads aloud during the night of "mourning" the fictional Great-aunt Birte. The psalm speaks of gathering in "the scattered sons of Israel" and healing "the broken in spirit," which could refer in this case to the Danish Jews. Then the psalm goes on to say that God "numbers the stars one by one," which refers to God's great power and also to His concern for each human being as an individual. Each person has a name, and each one is of value. In this context, the "stars" are the Danish Jews, whom God is protecting one by one as they are rescued by their countrymen and sent to freedom, as with this small group at Henrik's house. The star is an especially fitting symbol for the Jewish people, since the Nazis in other occupied countries of Europe forced Jews to wear prominent yellow Stars of David on their outer clothing.)

Questions 11-12 (Creative Level)

11. Write a letter from Ellen to Annemarie describing the nighttime walk along the path to Henrik's boat, hiding on the boat, the sea crossing, and their arrival in Sweden.
12. How do you think you might react if you were in Annemarie's position of having to risk your own safety and life to protect and save a friend?
13. Describe one of the novel's events from the point of view of a person other than Annemarie.

Across the Curriculum

Art

1. Design jewelry or other accessories featuring the Star of David.
2. Design clothing for actors and actresses to wear in a movie or stage version of *Number the Stars*.
3. Create an illustration or model of Uncle Henrik's fishing boat.
4. Create an illustration or model of Uncle Henrik's house and its immediate surroundings.
5. Find photographs in magazines or other media that you think resemble each of the main characters in the novel and assemble an album of these photos.

Geography

1. Create a poster with a map of Europe showing the countries occupied by the Nazis during World War II, the invasion routes and dates of each occupation, and the locations of all Nazi concentration/death camps.
2. Make a poster-map of Denmark, showing its borders and neighboring countries and the countries across the North Sea from it. Also locate and label Copenhagen and Gilleleje. Trace Annemarie's train journey north from Copenhagen to Gilleleje on the map, and also show the escape route across the sea.
3. Create a multimedia tour of historic Copenhagen, or a travelogue of Denmark.

Health

1. Mama claims that the fictional Great-aunt Birte died of typhus, a highly contagious disease. What is this illness? What are its causes and symptoms? How is it treated? Is it under more or less control today than it was in the 1940s?
2. Mama suffers a broken ankle. Demonstrate first-aid techniques to treat strained, sprained, and broken ankles, explaining the differences among these types of injuries.

History and Social Studies

1. Draw up a chronology in poster form of anti-Jewish actions and laws from Hitler's rise to power through the defeat of Germany by the Allies. Note when and if these were applied to Jews in the countries that Hitler's armies occupied.
2. Investigate rationing and shortages in the United States during World War II. Compare and contrast these with the shortages the Danish people suffered as mentioned in the novel.

3. Create a multimedia report on Danish castles, like Amalienborg in Copenhagen and Kronborg in Helsingor.
4. Research and report on Thor, the Norse god of thunder and weather. Do you think this is an appropriate name for the kitten that Annemarie and Kirsti discover?
5. Write a short biography of Denmark's King Christian X, explaining why he was an inspirational figure to his people during World War II.
6. Annemarie says, "Now I think that all of Denmark must be bodyguard for the Jews." The Danes did take on this role. Did other people in Europe protect their Jewish neighbors? If not, why didn't they act as the Danes did?
7. Create a time line of significant events of World War II. Add events from the novel to your time line.
8. Put together a classroom display of Holocaust photographs, including Jewish civilians in occupied territories, Jews being transported to camps, concentration camp scenes, and so on.
9. Research and report on the actual rescue of the Danish Jews by their fellow Danes. Add the various historic escape routes across the sea, and the towns from which they originated, to your map of Denmark.
10. Compare the organized smuggling of Danish Jews out of Denmark with the organized smuggling of U.S. slaves from South to North via the Underground Railroad.

Language Arts

1. Find the origin of the psalm that Peter reads aloud on pages 86-87 of the novel, and read the entire psalm. Does this help you interpret the novel's title?
2. Read some of Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tales. Then retell one in your own words, orally or in writing. You could do the oral retelling to a class of younger children.
3. Read a summary of the 1939 novel *Gone With the Wind*. Why do you think this novel was popular with European women like Annemarie's mother during World War II?
4. Lois Lowry is noted for her vivid and clear descriptions of place, or setting. Reread some of these in the novel (for example, on pages 60-61, 69, and 95). Using these as a model, write a vivid description of your own of a place you know well.
5. Read other first-hand accounts written by both Jewish and non-Jewish people who lived through World War II in Europe. Discuss what you have read with

classmates, and develop a list of common experiences shared by the writers.

Mathematics

1. Estimate how many miles and kilometers Mama and the three girls traveled to get from Copenhagen to the northern fishing village of Gilleleje. Also, estimate the number of miles/kilometers Uncle Henrik's boat would have sailed to get to Sweden. How much time would it have taken to make each of these journeys?
2. On the map of World War II Europe that you created in the Geography project above, add these facts:
 - the approximate number of people killed at each camp
 - the number of known survivors of each camp
 - the numbers of Jews in each country before World War II
 - the number of Jews in each country after the war
3. A German proverb says, "At the end of a war there are three armies. The army of the wounded, the army of the dead, and the army of the mourners." Make a chart showing the numbers of each of these three categories, by country and for civilian and military populations, of each nation involved in World War II.

Music

Find sheet music or recordings of songs that were popular during World War II. Play the recordings or perform the music for and/or with classmates.

Science

1. The novel tells us that in early October, the Scandinavian night is not very dark, and that during winter the night is dark and very long. Create a poster or other visual aid explaining the varying lengths of Scandinavian days and nights in different seasons.
2. Find out more about the powerful powder that Danish scientists created to thwart the Nazis' police dogs. Why would a combination of rabbit's blood and cocaine be effective?
3. Research and report on the herring fishery, either in the United States or in Scandinavia.

Student Involvement Activities

1. In a small group, develop a definition of hero. Who is a hero? What does a hero look like? What is a heroic act? Do any of the people in this novel fit your definition? Identify other heroes.

2. Think about a time when you acted bravely. Do you think of yourself as a brave person? Was it difficult for you to act bravely in this situation? Were you surprised that you did act bravely? Why do you think you were able to overcome your fears or doubts to take this action?
3. With classmates, role-play some scenes from the novel, such as one of the nights the Germans come knocking on the door. Or create the scene when Peter and Lise are attending a Resistance meeting that is raided by the Nazis.
4. Prepare for a class discussion about why the Nazis decided to exterminate Europe's Jews, and why so many individuals took part in the process of carrying out that decision.
5. By protecting Ellen, Annemarie's parents are putting the lives of their own children, Annemarie and Kirsti, in danger. Similarly, by taking part in the rescue mission, Annemarie is endangering the lives of the rest of her family. Do you think this was the right thing to do? What do you think you would do in a similar situation?
6. Invite one or several Holocaust survivors to speak to the class about their experiences. (Try a local synagogue for help with this, if necessary.)
7. Read and take notes from three short references on the Holocaust. Participate in a class discussion about these questions: What was different about the Holocaust from any previous event in world history? Could it happen again? Has it happened again?
8. Visit a Holocaust museum or memorial, and record your reactions.
9. Interview someone who was an at-home civilian during World War II, and learn about that person's experiences with wartime rationing and shortages.

Alternate Assessment

1. Create a time line of the novel's events, including events mentioned but not described as part of the novel's immediate action. Briefly summarize each event on your time line.
2. In chart or outline form, note each instance in which Annemarie acts courageously. Also note what fears Annemarie has about being called on to act in a brave way.
3. Create a postwar war crimes trial in which each of the novel's characters testifies about ways in which they were mistreated by German soldiers and officers.

4. Make a list of all the main characters in the novel. Next to each name, describe the person briefly and explain what part she or he plays in the novel, and the importance of this role. Also note the person's relationship with Annemarie.

Vocabulary Test

Match each boldface word with its meaning listed below. Write the letter of the meaning in the space next to the sentence number.

a. with doubt	f. irritated, annoyed	k. very scared	p. stubborn
b. put to death	g. sacred song or poem	l. without expression	q. twisted
c. with regret	h. short, sharp sounds	m. went around	r. with skill
d. stern, severe	i. frowning with anger	n. became quiet	s. flinched
e. in a hurry	j. jeering, scornful look	o. cried out sharply	t. tall and thin

- ___ 1. Ellen was a stocky ten-year-old, unlike **lanky** Annemarie.
- ___ 2. Laughing, Annemarie **skirted** an elderly lady in black.
- ___ 3. "Why are you running?" the **harsh** voice asked. His Danish was very poor.
- ___ 4. Stand still, Kirsti, Annemarie ordered silently, praying that somehow the **obstinate** five-year-old would receive the message.
- ___ 5. The soldiers stood on the corner, their faces **impassive** beneath the metal helmets.
- ___ 6. The door opened and Kirsti stomped in, her face tear-stained and **glowering**.
- ___ 7. Mama followed Kirsti with an **exasperated** look.
- ___ 8. "Mama will tell you a special story tonight," her mother said. "About a king?" Kirsti asked **dubiously**.
- ___ 9. **Terrified**, both girls looked up at the three Nazi officers who entered the room.
- ___ 10. Suddenly the officer grabbed a handful of Ellen's hair. Ellen **wincing**.
- ___ 11. "Or maybe you got her someplace else?" the officer continued with a **sneer**. "From the Rosens?"
- ___ 12. Nearby, a **gnarled** tree was still speckled with a few apples now long past ripe.
- ___ 13. It wasn't a joke at all, though Mama laughed **ruefully**. "They do relocate all the farmers' butter, right into the stomach of their army!"
- ___ 14. Uncle Henrik's strong hands continued, **deftly** pressing like a pulse against the cow.
- ___ 15. Annemarie heard the pounding on the door, and then the heavy, frighteningly familiar **staccato** of boots on the kitchen floor.
- ___ 16. Peter reached for the old Bible on the mantel. He opened it quickly and said, "I will read a **psalm**."
- ___ 17. The dogs lunged, sniffed at the white cloth eagerly, then **subsided**, disappointed again.
- ___ 18. There was a note, **hastily** written, from Mama, that the doctor was taking her in his car to the local hospital.
- ___ 19. "Uncle Henrik!" Annemarie **shrieked**, and then began to laugh.
- ___ 20. Annemarie thought how devastating the day was when they received the news that Peter had been captured and **executed** by the Germans.

Comprehension Test A

Part I: Matching (20 points)

Read each character description. In the list below, find the character who matches the description. Write the letter of the character in the space next to the description number. Use each name only once.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| ___ 1. Red-headed almost-brother of Annemarie and Kirsti. | a. Annemarie Johansen |
| ___ 2. Teacher who must leave his job and his native country. | b. Kirsti Johansen |
| ___ 3. Stubborn, talkative five-year-old. | c. Lise Johansen |
| ___ 4. Annemarie's best friend. | d. Ellen Rosen |
| ___ 5. Uncle Henrik's sister. | e. Peter Neilsen |
| ___ 6. Leader whom the Danish people love and honor. | f. Uncle Henrik |
| ___ 7. Good friend who often shares afternoon "coffee" with Annemarie's mother. | g. Christian X |
| ___ 8. Gentle girl who died just before her wedding was to happen. | h. Sophy Rosen |
| ___ 9. Cheerful, good-natured fisherman. | i. Mama |
| ___ 10. Girl who thinks she's not brave but acts with great courage. | j. Mr. Rosen |

Part II: Fill-In (20 points)

Write one or two words in each blank to make each statement true.

1. Annemarie, Ellen, and their families live in the Danish city of _____.
2. Denmark has been invaded and occupied by the army of the country of _____.
3. The movement to fight back against the ruling Nazis is called the _____.
4. *The Free Danes* is a secret underground _____.
5. Uncle Henrik takes the Rosens to freedom in the country of _____.
6. The Nazis want to arrest Ellen and her parents because the Rosens are _____.
7. The Nazi officer challenges Mama to open Great-aunt Birte's _____.
8. When the German officer in the Johansens' apartment asks Ellen who she is, Ellen says that her name is _____.
9. When speaking in code about smuggling people by boat, Uncle Henrik says, "The weather will be good for _____ today."
10. German soldiers and fierce German _____ threaten Annemarie on the wooded path when she's bringing the basket to Uncle Henrik.

Part III: Multiple Choice (30 points)

Underline the choice that correctly completes each of these sentences.

1. German soldiers always wear (**red shirts, tall shiny boots, leather gloves, green uniforms**).
2. Kirsti yearns for her favorite prewar treat, (**hot chocolate, lollipops, cupcakes with frosting, Danish pastry**).
3. King Christian rides through the city streets to greet his people each day on/in Jubilee, his (**horse, Jeep, carriage, motorbike**).
4. Uncle Henrik's cottage and meadow in northern Denmark overlook the (**Atlantic Ocean, Black Sea, North Sea, Mediterranean Sea**).
5. The Germans killed Lise by (**firing squad, hanging, poisoning, running her down with a car**).
6. The main events of this novel take place in (**winter, spring, summer, autumn**).
7. At night, the Danish people must black out their (**windows, bedrooms, kitchens, chimneys**).
8. Kirsti is outraged to have shoes made of (**fish skin, plastic, cardboard, fur**).
9. The girls vividly remember "fireworks" in the sky on the night the Danes blew up their (**weapons factory, royal palace, amusement park, navy vessels**).
10. The Nazis get lists of Danish Jews from (**mosques, churches, synagogues, chapels**), the Jewish worship centers.

11. Mama and the girls travel to Uncle Henrik's by (**bus, car, train, boat**).
12. Uncle Henrik's boat, the Ingeborg, is named after (**Annemarie, Mama, Uncle Henrik's wife, Lise**).
13. The kitten is named Thor, the Norse god of (**the underworld, love, virtue, thunder**).
14. The phrase "number the stars" comes from a (**psalm in the Bible, popular song, movie title, Danish folk tale**).
15. Her walk/run through the woods in the predawn darkness reminds Annemarie of the story about (**Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, the Little Mermaid, Alice in Wonderland**).

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Give examples from the novel of Annemarie acting bravely.
2. Why do Mama and Uncle Henrik pretend that Great-aunt Birte has died? Who are the mourners who gather around Great-aunt Birte's casket? Why are they there?
3. How is wartime life different for Annemarie and her family from life before the war?

Comprehension Test B

Part I: Matching (20 points)

Read each quotation. In the list below, find the character who spoke the words. Write the letter of the character in the space next to the quotation number. You will use one name twice.

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------|
| a. Annemarie Johansen | b. Kirsti Johansen | c. German soldier | d. Peter Neilsen | |
| e. Uncle Henrik | f. Ellen Rosen | g. Sophy Rosen | h. Mama | i. Papa |

- ____ 1. "Why do I need a wife, when I have a sister?"
- ____ 2. "Go home, all of you. Go study your schoolbooks. And don't run. You look like hoodlums when you run."
- ____ 3. "Brave? No, I wasn't brave. I was very frightened."
- ____ 4. "I'm sending Inge to you today with the children, and she will be bringing you a carton of cigarettes."
- ____ 5. "I must get this to Henrik. But I might not see him. I want you to deliver this. Without fail. It is of great importance."
- ____ 6. "Most mothers wouldn't make their daughters wear ugly fish shoes!"
- ____ 7. "It is important to be one of the crowd, always. Be one of many. Be sure that they never have reason to remember your face."
- ____ 8. "I'll come back someday. I promise."
- ____ 9. "Uncle Henrik, you are lying to me. You and Mama both."
- ____ 10. "Friends will take care of them. That's what friends do."

Part II: Short Answer (20 points)

Write a one- or two-word answer to each of the following questions.

1. What country in Europe is the setting for this novel? _____
2. What is the native language of the soldiers who occupy Annemarie's country? _____
3. What very important item does Annemarie bring to Uncle Henrik on his boat? _____
4. What color is Ellen's hair? _____
5. Who is the author of this novel? _____
6. What is Uncle Henrik's profession, or job? _____
7. What does Papa show the Nazi officer to convince him that Ellen is Papa and Mama's daughter? _____
8. What kind of animal is Kirsti's pet Thor, the God of Thunder? _____
9. Who is Annemarie's best friend? _____
10. What part of her body does Mama injure when she is hurrying home along the wooded path?

Part III: Multiple Choice (30 points)

Underline the choice that correctly completes each of these sentences.

1. At school, Annemarie wins the girls' (**gymnastics meet, chess match, footraces, spelling bee**).
2. Kirsti loves to hear Annemarie tell her a (**fairy tale, poem, prayer, ghost story**).
3. A Danish boy tells a German soldier that all of Denmark will be King Christian's (**army, victim, enemy, bodyguard**).
4. During the main part of this novel, Annemarie is (**eight, ten, twelve, fourteen**) years old.
5. Annemarie likes to look at Lise's wedding dress and linens in the (**bedroom closet, dresser drawer, blue carved trunk, suitcase**) where they are kept.
6. To light their apartment at night, the Johansens mostly use (**electricity, moonlight, candles, flashlights**).
7. The most common food for dinner at the Johansens' is (**potatoes, meat, chicken, butter and cream**).
8. The Nazis move to arrest Danish Jews on (**Hanukkah, the Jewish New Year, Easter, the Fourth of July**).

9. To protect her friend, Annemarie yanks off Ellen's (**crucifix, Star of David, peace symbol, ruby**) necklace.
10. Annemarie and Kirsti both have (**red, brown, black, silvery blond**) hair.
11. (**World War II, World War I, the Gulf War, the Thirty Years' War**) has brought the German soldiers to Annemarie's country.
12. Blossom, who provides cream and butter, is Uncle Henrik's (**girlfriend, goat, neighbor, farmer, cow**).
13. The casket contains (**nothing, the body of Great-aunt Birte, guns and ammunition, blankets and warm clothing**).
14. Annemarie tells the German soldiers that her basket contains (**Uncle Henrik's lunch, nothing, her own picnic lunch, an important message**).
15. Uncle Henrik takes the Rosens to a free country by (**train, boat, bicycle, walking**).

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Why do Ellen and her parents have to leave their native country?
2. What unpleasant encounters does Annemarie have with German soldiers and German officers?
3. How do different characters in the novel take part in Resistance activities?

Answer Key

VOCABULARY TEST

- | | | | |
|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. t | 6. i | 11. j | 16. g |
| 2. m | 7. f | 12. q | 17. n |
| 3. d | 8. a | 13. c | 18. e |
| 4. p | 9. k | 14. r | 19. o |
| 5. l | 10. s | 15. h | 20. b |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Matching (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. e | 6. g |
| 2. j | 7. h |
| 3. b | 8. c |
| 4. d | 9. f |
| 5. i | 10. a |

Part II: Fill-In (20 points)

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. Copenhagen | 6. Jewish |
| 2. Germany | 7. casket (coffin) |
| 3. Resistance | 8. Lise Johansen |
| 4. newspaper | 9. fishing |
| 5. Sweden | 10. dogs |

Part III: Multiple Choice (30 points)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. tall shiny boots | 9. amusement park |
| 2. cupcakes
with frosting | 10. synagogues |
| 3. horse | 11. train |
| 4. North Sea | 12. Mama |
| 5. running her down
with a car | 13. thunder |
| 6. autumn | 14. psalm in the Bible |
| 7. windows | 15. Little Red Riding Hood |
| 8. fish skin | |

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Matching (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. e | 6. b |
| 2. c | 7. g |
| 3. a | 8. f |
| 4. i | 9. a |
| 5. d | 10. h |

Part II: Short Answer (20 points)

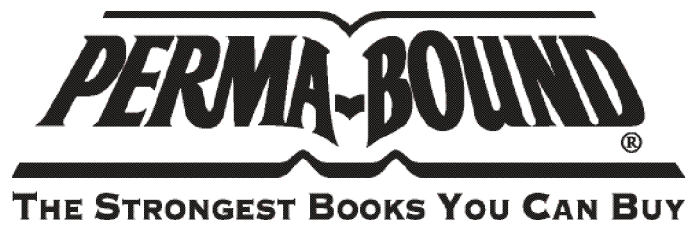
- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Denmark | 6. fisherman |
| 2. German | 7. baby photograph |
| 3. handkerchief | 8. kitten |
| 4. dark | 9. Ellen |
| 5. Lois Lowry | 10. ankle |

Part III: Multiple Choice (30 points)

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. footraces | 9. Star of David |
| 2. fairy tale | 10. silvery blond |
| 3. bodyguard | 11. World War II |
| 4. ten | 12. cow |
| 5. blue carved trunk | 13. blankets and warm clothing |
| 6. candles | 14. Uncle Henrik's lunch |
| 7. potatoes | 15. boat |
| 8. the Jewish New Year | |

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.



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