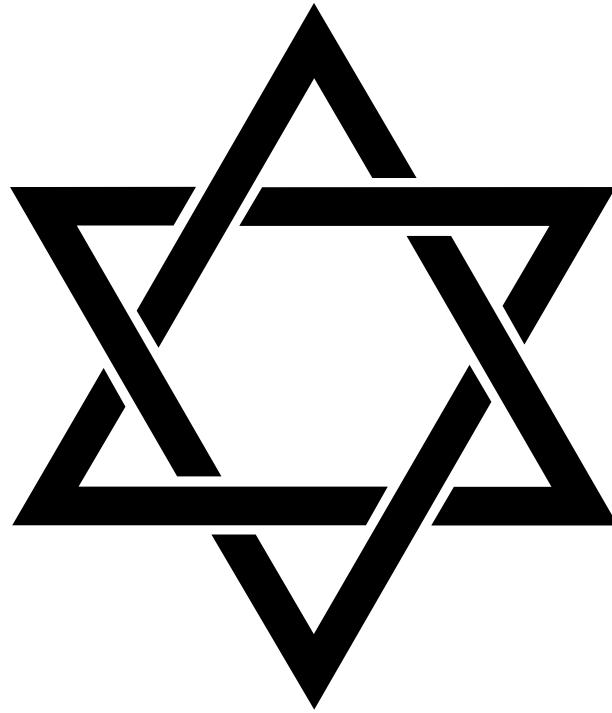


# BOOK STUDY C



## Number the Stars


### Skills

Composition  
Comprehension  
First Person  
Writing Gathering

Information  
Geography  
Interviewing  
Predicting the Outcome

Recalling Details  
Thinking Skills  
Vocabulary

*Number the Stars*  
by Lois Lowry  
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 **Teacher's Note:**  
This story is a gentle introduction to World War II and the Holocaust. While the story includes the disappearance of Jewish families, there is no mention of the horrors of their camps. In chapter 16, a fisherman calls the Nazi dogs "damn dogs" because they are able to locate people hiding in the boats. If you desire to scratch the word out of the book your student is reading, that will not affect the story. We believe the story is so well presented; we do not want one word to keep it out of our program.

## Introducing *Number the Stars*

### Spark:

Find a map of Europe or use the one in the *Purple Student Activity Book*. Show your student Denmark. Discuss its size in relationship to the nearby countries. Point out Sweden and discuss its location in relationship to Denmark.

### Summary

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, a ten year old and her family learned to be brave and courageous when they helped shelter a Jewish family from the Nazis. On every street corner in Denmark stood two Nazi soldiers to monitor and control the people. One day, a Jewish lady's button store was closed and a sign on the door indicated the Nazi government closed the store. It became clear that the Jewish families were being relocated in Denmark. Annemarie Johansen and her family risked all to help their Jewish friends escape to Sweden where they can be safe. Along the way, Annemarie learned about trust and bravery.

## Vocabulary

Find the following words in context. Read the sentences before and after the word. What do you think the word means? Look up the word online or in a dictionary and write the meaning that best suits its context in this story.

1. rucksack (Chapter 1)
2. obstinate (Chapter 1)
3. café (Chapter 1)
4. halt (Chapter 1)
5. resistance (Chapter 3)
6. swastika (Chapter 3)



Use the correct vocabulary word in to complete each sentence.

OR

Write your own sentences with the words.

1. We met at the \_\_\_\_\_ for a sandwich.
2. The German officer had a \_\_\_\_\_ on his uniform.
3. He carried all his books in a \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Many brave people worked in the \_\_\_\_\_ Movement in Europe.
5. The soldier shouted, “\_\_\_\_\_,” and we stopped immediately.
6. Kirsti could be an \_\_\_\_\_ child.

1. rucksack – a type of backpack
2. obstinate - firmly adhering to one’s purpose, opinion
3. café – a small restaurant usually with an outdoor section
4. halt – stop, cease moving
5. resistance – the act of opposing a force
- 6 swastika – A figure used as a symbol or an ornament since prehistoric times. This figure was the official emblem of the Nazi party and the Third Reich

1. café
2. swastika
3. rucksack
4. Resistance
5. halt
6. obstinate

1. The girls were afraid of the soldiers because they had guns and were so big and powerful.
2. Mama told the girls to walk another way because she did not want the soldiers to know their faces.
3. Denmark surrendered because they did not have an army and King Christian X knew Denmark could not win a battle.
4. The King had all the Danish ships burned so the Nazis could not use them.
5. Mrs. Hirsch's shop was closed and had a sign on it. Mrs. Hirsch was Jewish.
6. Annemarie is afraid something will happen to her Jewish friend, Ellen.
7. The Germans controlled the importing of goods.
8. It was hard to find shoes. The people could not get coffee or sugar.

## Discussion Questions

Find the section of the book that answers these questions. Be prepared to read the sections to your teacher or group.

### Chapter 1

1. Explain why the girls were afraid of the soldiers.
2. Why did Mama tell the girls to walk another way to school?

### Chapter 2

3. Explain why the King of Denmark surrendered to Germany.
4. What did the Danish do to their ships after the Nazis took over Denmark? Why?

### Chapter 3

5. What was unusual about Mrs. Hirsch's shop?
6. Why was Annemarie frightened that evening?

### Chapter 4

7. Why do you think it was so hard for the people to buy things in Denmark?
8. What things were they not able to buy?

Chapter 5

9. Why was Ellen staying with Annemarie's family?
10. Who awakened them during the night?
11. How did Papa 'save the day'?

Chapter 6

12. Where did Mama and the girls go for vacation?
13. Describe Uncle Henrik and his life.

Chapter 7

14. What was across the sea from Uncle Henrik's town?
15. Why did Annemarie hide Ellen's necklace?

Chapter 8

16. Why did Mama prepare the living room?

9. **The Rabbi told the people that they would be relocated soon. The Rosens were making plans to escape.**
10. **Soldiers knocked on the door and wanted to know the location of the Rosen family. The soldiers questioned that the girls were sisters since one had dark hair.**
11. **Papa pulled out a photo of Lise and Annemarie when they were young and Lise has dark hair, convincing the soldiers.**
12. **Mama and the girls went to Uncle Henrik's house.**
13. **Uncle Henrik was a fisherman who lived alone.**
14. **Across the sea from Uncle Henrik's town was Sweden. It was free of Nazi rule.**
15. **Annemarie hid Ellen's necklace because it was a Star of David and would prove that Ellen was Jewish.**
16. **They were going to put a casket in the room.**

17. **Annemarie did not know of a Great-aunt Birte and had not heard of anyone in the family who had died.**
18. **Uncle Henrik told her that it was easier on some people if they did not know the truth, and then they would not have to lie if they were questioned.**
19. **Annemarie did not want Ellen to have the burden of the truth if she were asked.**
20. **The soldiers came to the house because they saw many people coming there.**
21. **When the soldier wanted to open the casket, Mama told him that the person died of typhus and may still be contagious.**
22. **In the casket were blankets and jackets.**
23. **Peter was there to help the Jewish families escape.**
24. **Mama took the Rosens to Uncle Henrik's boat so he could take them to Sweden where they would be free.**
25. **Annemarie found a packet that Peter had given Mr. Rosen. Peter said it was very important.**

## Chapter 9

17. Why did Annemarie think that Mama and Uncle Henrik were lying to her?
18. How did Uncle Henrik explain the lies to Annemarie?
19. Why did Annemarie not tell Ellen the truth about Great-aunt Birte?

## Chapter 10

20. Why did the soldiers come to the house?
21. How did Mama 'save the day'?

## Chapter 11

22. What was in the casket?
23. Why was Peter there too?

## Chapter 12

24. Where was Mama taking the Rosens? Why?

## Chapter 13

25. What did Annemarie find at the bottom of the steps?

Chapter 14

- 26. Where was Annemarie going that took her through the woods?
- 27. What was at the end of the path?

Chapter 15

- 28. How did Annemarie decide to act with the soldiers?
- 29. What happened when the soldier found the special packet?

Chapter 16

- 30. How did Annemarie show her bravery?
- 31. Why was the handkerchief so important?

Afterword

- 32. What parts of this story are true?

- 26. **Annemarie took the packet to Uncle Henrik's boat.**
- 27. **When she came to the end of the path she saw Nazi soldiers and their dogs.**
- 28. **Annemarie decided to act like Kirsti, her younger sister.**
- 29. **When the soldier found the packet, he opened it and saw only a handkerchief.**
- 30. **Annemarie was afraid to go through the woods and face the soldiers, but she did to save her friends.**
- 31. **The handkerchief had a powder on it that would attract the dogs but then make their sense of smell non-existent. That prevented the dogs from finding people on the boats.**
- 32. **The surrender of Denmark to the Nazis and the reason for it is true. The bombing of the ships was factual. The escape of Jewish families to Sweden was true. The powder on the handkerchief was true and used to help Jewish families escape Denmark.**

## Story Activities

1. Locate Denmark on the map of Europe. Color it red. Find Sweden and color it green. Draw a line showing the route taken by Jewish families who escaped to Sweden.



2. Go online or find a book that shows the countries that were taken over by the Nazis in the 1930s and 1940s. Color all of these red.
3. Interview people who know about World War II. Write a paragraph or two about the information you obtain.
4. Choose one of the main characters from the story: Mama, Annemarie, Ellen, Peter, and Uncle Henrik.

Choose a section of the story and write it from that character's point of view.

5. Think about bravery and what it means to you. Write a short story about a character who acts bravely in a difficult situation. You may use a story you heard in your interviews.





I **C.A.N.** Assessment  
*Number the Stars* - Book Study C

After the *Number the Stars - Book Study C* is completed  
check off each I **C.A.N.** objective with your teacher.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**C**

I can **complete** my work.  
I can be **creative**.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**A**

I can be **accurate**.  
I can do my work with a good **attitude**.

\_\_\_\_\_

**N**

I can do my work **neatly**.