

# 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Assignment

## Number the Stars

By Lois Lowry



Dear 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Student,

Welcome to 5<sup>th</sup> grade! This summer, you will be assigned a novel to read and a short response paper to complete. This will be a graded assignment and is due on the first day of school. Please use complete sentences, appropriate grammar, and take your time to write neatly. We will be discussing this book in class, so be sure to bring your completed assignment with you.

I hope you enjoy this book! I will see you on the first day of 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Mrs. Nitzell

### Checklist:

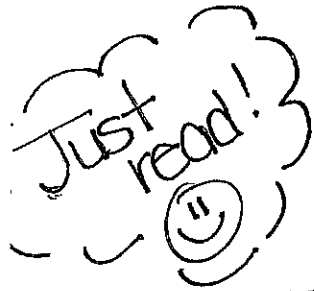
- Read novel
- Complete the comprehension packet using complete sentences and your neatest handwriting.
- Return your completed project on the first day of school.

# Number the Stars

by Lois Lowry

(Dell, 1989)

(Available in Canada from Doubleday Dell Seal, in the UK from Lions,  
and in Australia from Transworld Publishers)



Annemarie Johansen and her best friend, Ellen Rosen, are racing home from school when they are stopped by German soldiers on the corner. The girls think this is just another inconvenience that they need to contend with since the occupation of Denmark by the Nazis. However, they do not realize that soldiers on street corners and rationed food are only the beginning of their trials.

Since Annemarie and her family are Protestant they are safe, but Ellen's family is Jewish. When the Rosens get word that they are about to be relocated, they decide to find a way to escape. The Johansens agree to allow Ellen to live with them temporarily, and the girls embark on an adventure designed to save Ellen's life.

Mrs. Johansen's brother, Henrik, owns a fishing boat, which he normally uses to earn his living. During the Nazi occupation, he also uses it to help smuggle Jews out of Denmark into Sweden. However, he finds that his efforts are being thwarted by German soldiers who realize that Jews are escaping, and begin to suspect the local fishermen.

Annemarie discovers that once the Rosens are aboard the fishing boat, her Uncle Henrik is missing a secret packet that he needs in order to make the journey successful. In spite of her fear, Annemarie knows that she must deliver the packet. She is stopped by German soldiers while on her way to the boat and narrowly escapes with the packet hidden in Uncle Henrik's lunch.

The mysterious item hidden in the packet, and the historical relevance of it are not revealed until the very end of the book. Annemarie discovers that she has played a major part in saving Ellen's life, and that bravery is thinking about what needs to be done, not about how frightened she is.



Number the Stars

By Lois Lowry

1. *What is the setting of this story? (where and when the story takes place)*

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2. *Who are the main characters in this story?*

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3. *What is the conflict of the story? (What problem is the main character(s) facing?)*

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4. *What is the climax (or turning point) of the story?*

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5. *Point of view (who is telling the story?) Circle one.*

First person (I, me)

Second person (you)

Third person (he, she, they)

# Response

Choose and  
\* Highlight 5

Explain the meaning of these quotations from *Number the Stars*.

**Note to the teacher:** Choose an appropriate number of quotes to which your students should respond.

- Chapter 1:** *"Haltel... Why are you running?"*
- Chapter 2:** *Each morning, he had come from the palace on his horse, Jubilee, and ridden also through the streets of Copenhagen, greeting his people.*
- Chapter 2:** *Redheaded Peter, her sister's fiancé, had not married anyone in the years since Lise's death.*
- Chapter 3:** *There were no pink-frosted cupcakes: there hadn't been for months.*
- Chapter 3:** *"Well," Annemarie said slowly, "now I think that all of Denmark must be bodyguard for the Jews, as well."*
- Chapter 4:** *"Girls," she said, "we have a nice surprise. Tonight Ellen will be coming to stay overnight and to be our guest for a few days! It isn't often we have a visitor."*
- Chapter 5:** *Annemarie knew instantly which photographs he had chosen.*
- Chapter 6:** *"I'm sending Inge to you today with the children, and she will be bringing you a carton of cigarettes."*
- Chapter 8:** *"There has been a death, and tonight your Great-aunt Birte will be resting in the living room, in her casket, before she is buried tomorrow."*
- Chapter 9:** *"...it is much easier to be brave if you do not know everything."*
- Chapter 10:** *The Lord is rebuilding Jerusalem;  
He gathers in the scattered sons of Israel.  
It is He who heals the broken in spirit  
and binds up their wounds,  
He who numbers the stars one by one...*
- Chapter 11:** *He inserted the dropper of the bottle into the baby's tiny mouth, and squeezed a few drops of liquid onto her tongue.*
- Chapter 11:** *It was an odd word; pride.*
- Chapter 12:** *Where was Mama?*
- Chapter 13:** *"Mr. Rosen tripped on the step, remember? It must have fallen from his pocket."*
- Chapter 13:** *"If any soldiers see you, if they stop you, you must pretend to be nothing more than a little girl. A silly, empty-headed little girl, taking lunch to a fisherman..."*
- Chapter 16:** *"Many of the fishermen have built hidden places in their boats. I have, too."*
- Chapter 16:** *"Now, thanks to Peter, we will each have such a handkerchief, each boat captain."*
- Chapter 17:** *"It is what friends do," Mama had said.*

## Number the Stars Responses:

Choose 5 quotes (your favorites), locate the page, and write an explanation of what it means or how it pertains to the story.

\*\*\*Be sure to write in complete sentences, use correct capitalization and punctuation and write in cursive!

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**\*It's all about you!**

**1. If you were the main character, what would you have done? (opinion)**

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**2. Did you enjoy the story? Yes or No. (opinion)**  
**Explain what you liked or disliked about the story.**

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