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Sample

Prestwick House
Literature
Teaching Unit
Chapter-by-Chapter Study Guide



Number the Stars

by Lois Lowry

- Learning objectives
- Study Guide with short-answer questions
- Background information
- Vocabulary in context
- Multiple-choice test
- Essay questions
- Literary terms



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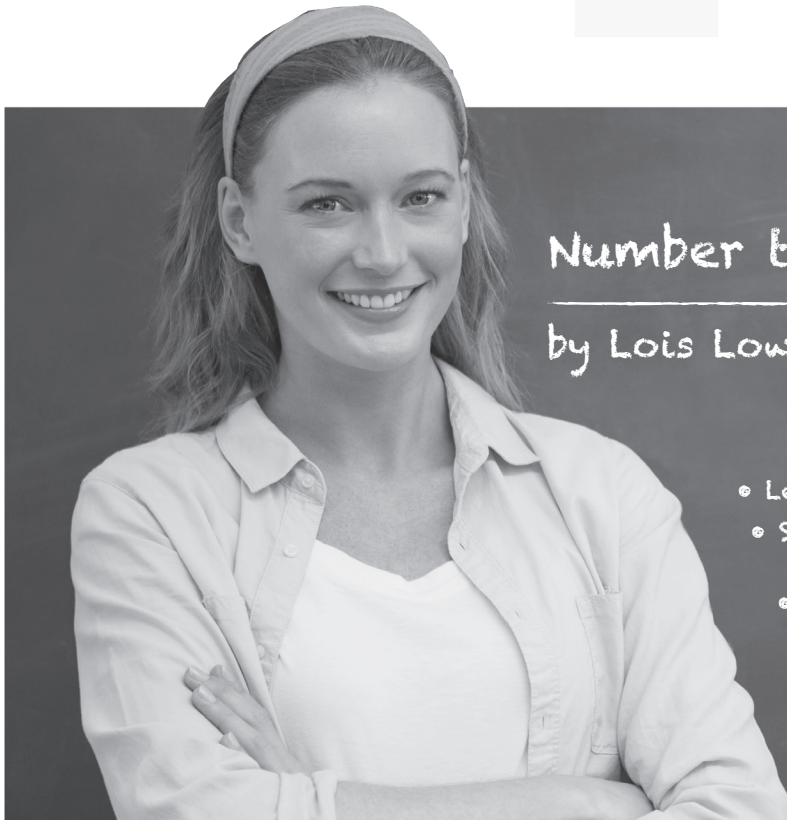
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Number the Stars

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 **Prestwick House**

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Number the Stars

Note to the Teacher

Number the Stars is an interesting fact-based story set in Denmark during World War II. Annemarie must grow up quickly as she and her family work to save young Ellen and her parents from the Nazis. It might be helpful for the students to be reminded of some basic facts concerning the Holocaust and of World War II before they read this novel. Therefore, a brief discussion of these topics is included with the unit. These materials do not include any information specific to Denmark's role in the War. It is best for the students to learn about the courage of Denmark's people from the story itself and from the Afterword, which provides the students with the answer to the question, "How much of Annemarie's story is true?" Since understanding Denmark and Sweden's geographical proximity is important to the story, a map of this area of Europe is also included with this unit. Students will be asked to refer to this map for one or more of the questions in the Unit.

All references come from the Yearling Book edition of *Number the Stars*, copyright 1989.

Number the Stars

Objectives

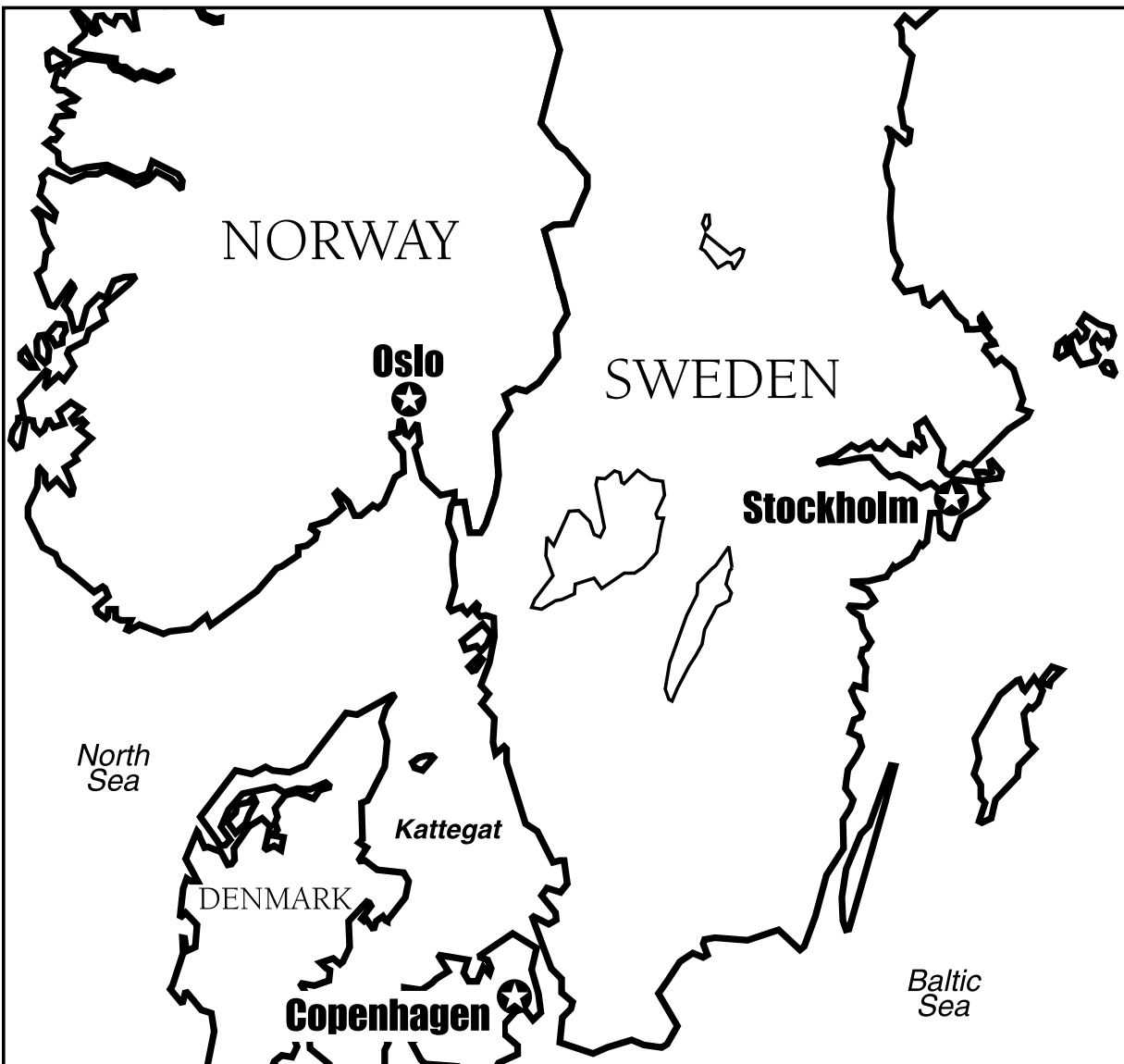
By the end of this Unit, the student will be able to:

1. relate significant details from the novel 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
 - flashback
 - personification
 - comic relief
 - foreshadowing
5. explain “stream of consciousness” and analyze how 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 *Number the Stars* 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 the events in this book comprise 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.



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 6 – Is the Weather Good for Fishing?

VOCABULARY

tentatively – indicating timidity, hesitancy or uncertainty

1. Why does Mama want to travel to Uncle Henrik's house without Papa?

2. What are Papa and Uncle Henrik talking about when they talk about "cigarettes"?

1. How does Uncle Henrik explain to Annemarie why he and Mama lied to her about Great-aunt Birte?

2. Annemarie knows that there is no Great-aunt Birte. Why does she keep this information to herself instead of sharing it with her best friend, Ellen?

3. Many young adult novels are also coming of age stories in which the protagonist, in the course of the story, grows, matures, and comes to understand the world in adult terms. Find a passage in this chapter illustrating that Annemarie is growing and maturing.

4. In Denmark, when a family member dies, it is customary for family and friends to come to the home of the family to offer their condolences. In what ways does Annemarie notice that this gathering is different?

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

Afterword

1. The afterword at the end of this novel answers the question, “How much of Annemarie’s story is true?” 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
