

# number the stars questions and answers

**Number the Stars questions and answers** is an essential topic for students and educators exploring Lois Lowry's powerful novel, which tells the story of a young girl, Annemarie Johansen, living in Denmark during World War II. The book addresses themes of bravery, friendship, and the impact of war on innocent lives. Understanding the questions surrounding the text can deepen comprehension and enhance discussions. This article will provide a comprehensive overview of key questions and their answers related to "Number the Stars," making it a valuable resource for both students and teachers.

## Overview of "Number the Stars"

"Number the Stars," published in 1989, is a historical fiction novel aimed at middle-grade readers. It is set in Nazi-occupied Copenhagen during World War II and follows the story of Annemarie Johansen and her best friend, Ellen Rosen, who is Jewish. As the Nazi regime intensifies its persecution of Jews, Annemarie and her family take significant risks to protect Ellen, highlighting the themes of courage and sacrifice.

## Key Themes and Questions

Understanding the major themes of "Number the Stars" can help readers engage with the text on a deeper level. Here are some critical themes along with corresponding questions:

### Themes of Bravery and Courage

1. How does Annemarie demonstrate bravery throughout the story?
  - Annemarie shows her bravery in various instances, such as when she helps Ellen hide from the Nazis and when she confronts danger to protect her friend and family.
2. What does the character of Peter Neilsen symbolize in relation to courage?
  - Peter represents the resistance against the Nazis. His actions embody the fight for freedom and protection of the Jewish community, as he plays a critical role in the escape plan.

### The Importance of Friendship

1. In what ways does the friendship between Annemarie and Ellen evolve

throughout the story?

- Their friendship deepens as they face perilous situations together. Annemarie's commitment to protecting Ellen strengthens their bond, highlighting the power of friendship in times of crisis.

2. How does the friendship between their families reflect the broader societal issues of the time?

- The Johansen family's willingness to protect the Rosens illustrates the theme of solidarity among those who oppose the Nazi regime, showcasing how personal relationships can defy oppressive social norms.

## **The Impact of War on Innocent Lives**

1. How does Lowry portray the effects of war on children in the novel?

- The novel depicts the loss of innocence and the harsh realities of war through the experiences of Annemarie and her friends. Their childhood is interrupted by fear and danger, illustrating the psychological impact of war.

2. What role does fear play in the lives of the characters?

- Fear is a constant presence in the characters' lives, influencing their decisions and actions. Annemarie's growing awareness of the dangers around her reflects the loss of security felt by many during wartime.

## **Character Analysis Questions**

Understanding the characters in "Number the Stars" is crucial for analyzing their motivations and the story's development. Here are some questions related to key characters:

### **Annemarie Johansen**

1. What are Annemarie's defining characteristics?

- Annemarie is portrayed as brave, resourceful, and loyal. Her ability to think quickly in dangerous situations showcases her strength and determination.

2. How does Annemarie's perspective on the world change throughout the novel?

- Initially, Annemarie is unaware of the full extent of the danger surrounding her. However, as she experiences the realities of war, her understanding and maturity grow significantly.

### **Ellen Rosen**

1. What role does Ellen play in helping to develop Annemarie's character?
  - Ellen's friendship challenges Annemarie to confront difficult situations and responsibilities, ultimately helping her to grow and mature throughout the story.
2. How does Ellen's Jewish identity impact her experiences in the novel?
  - Ellen's identity as a Jew places her in immediate danger, highlighting the discrimination and persecution faced by Jewish individuals during the Holocaust.

## **The Johansen Family**

1. What does Mama Johansen's character reveal about parental love and sacrifice?
  - Mama Johansen embodies the theme of parental love through her protective instincts and willingness to risk her safety for her children and Ellen.
2. How does the family dynamic within the Johansen household influence the story?
  - The close-knit nature of the Johansen family provides a strong support system, showcasing how love and unity can help individuals endure difficult times.

## **Discussion Questions for Deeper Engagement**

To foster critical thinking and discussion, here are some open-ended questions suitable for classroom settings:

1. What lessons can be learned from the actions of the Johansen family?
2. In what ways does the author use symbolism throughout the novel, and what do these symbols represent?
3. How does the setting of Copenhagen during World War II contribute to the overall narrative and themes of the story?
4. What does the title "Number the Stars" signify in the context of the story? How does it relate to the characters' experiences?

## **Conclusion**

In summary, "Number the Stars" is a poignant exploration of friendship, bravery, and the impact of war on innocent lives. By engaging with the questions and answers presented in this article, readers can gain a deeper understanding of the text and its themes. Whether used in a classroom setting or for personal reflection, these inquiries serve as a starting point for meaningful discussions about the novel's enduring relevance and the lessons it imparts. As students and educators delve into the complexities of "Number

the Stars," they will undoubtedly uncover the profound messages embedded within Lowry's powerful narrative.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the main theme of 'Number the Stars'?**

The main theme of 'Number the Stars' is bravery and the importance of friendship during times of war, particularly in the context of Nazi occupation and the Holocaust.

### **Who is the protagonist of 'Number the Stars'?**

The protagonist of 'Number the Stars' is Annemarie Johansen, a young Danish girl who learns about courage and sacrifice as she helps her Jewish friend escape from the Nazis.

### **How does the author depict the concept of resistance in the novel?**

The author depicts resistance through the actions of the Danish people, including Annemarie's family, who risk their lives to protect their Jewish neighbors and resist the Nazis' oppressive regime.

### **What role does the character of Ellen play in 'Number the Stars'?**

Ellen Rosen is Annemarie's best friend, a Jewish girl whose family is targeted by the Nazis. Her character highlights the impact of war on personal relationships and the loss of innocence.

### **What does the title 'Number the Stars' refer to?**

The title 'Number the Stars' refers to a line from a Hebrew prayer, symbolizing hope and the idea of counting one's blessings, as well as the star of David, representing Jewish identity.

### **How does Annemarie's understanding of bravery evolve throughout the story?**

Annemarie's understanding of bravery evolves from a naive view of heroism to a deeper comprehension that true bravery often involves quiet acts of resistance and self-sacrifice for the sake of others.

## What historical context is important to understanding 'Number the Stars'?

The historical context of World War II and the Nazi occupation of Denmark is crucial, as it sets the backdrop for the story and highlights the real-life dangers faced by Jewish families during this time.

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