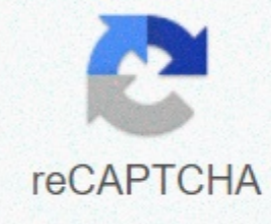




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Number the stars summary shmoop

Sometimes in life, we come across a work of genius that makes us stay, take a step back, and say, Wow. This is all I was looking for. This is — the complete package. Maybe it's a movie that makes us stomach-laughing before bringing us to tears. Maybe it's the perfect drool-worthy snack. You may not think that a historical fiction book set in wartime Denmark might be the whole package. Shmooper, you'd be wrong. A Star of David, symbol of Judaism. (Source) Lois Lowry's Number the Stars won a Newbery Medal, which is the highest honor for young adult literature. It is the fascinating story of ten-year-old Annemarie Johansen, who lives with her family in Denmark in 1943. War rages around her, and Nazi soldiers march through the city daily. Annemarie is an ordinary kid, but in this book she finds her courage tested in an extraordinary way. Besides the compelling plot, what else does this book-and-and-this course-make a complete package? Well: You will soak up lots of information about a critical period in world history. You'll speed through the pages to find out what's going on in exciting chapters with titles like Run! As Fast As You Can! and, most fascinating of all, My dogs smell like meat! In addition, you will sharpen your reading and writing skills when commenting, analyzing and summarizing your path to the final project. There, you'll use today's modern-day tools—social media, FTW—to show what you've learned about a historic era that seems to be forever, but relevant and important today. SummaryNumber the Stars tells the story of 10-year-old Annemarie and how she manages to live in scary, Nazi-occupied Denmark during World War II. Lois Lowry forces us to keep reading by incorporating lots of excitement and drama. It's more exciting than this cat. The relationships between the main characters mean a lot to the story's plot and themes. Lowry packs great emotions and conflicts into just a few words, so we will focus on carefully reading short parts of the text. Annemarie's evolution from a curious child to a brave, wise preteen makes this book a coming-of-age story, much like how Harry Potter grows over her book series—just minus the magic and with a slightly darker tone. Although Number the Stars was published back in 1989, teachers around the world continue to award the book because it is considered one of the best historical fiction novels ever written for young people. CaseAt the end of this drive, you should be able to:identify the effects of the Holocaust on the lives of everyday Europeans.know the book's characters as intimately as your BFFs since kindergarten, by understanding the characters' characteristics, motives, and relationships well enough to analyze them in writing.make connections over the entire length of the text to draw conclusions about the book's theme and Lois Lowry your close reading ability by reading and reading small sections of text.Look across multiple sources—fiction and nonfiction—on the theme of World War II in Denmark. Then draw specific evidence from these sources and use it to support a thoughtful written argument. Switch Nav If your best friend was in terrible danger, and you weren't, what would you do? Would you stand by your friend and experience the threat together, or would you ditch your friend and save your own skin? That's the question that Annemarie, the protagonist of Number the Stars, has to answer—and that's the most important question in her life. Number the Stars is set in Denmark during World War II, when the country was full of Nazi soldiers and the Danish people had lost many of their freedoms. Like Marcus Zusak's The Book Thief, this story is told from an unusual point of view: the main character is not Jewish. (Although this book was published sixteen years before the Book Thief. We're just saying.) It gives us history through a different lens than we're used to, which makes it even more worthwhile. Written by Lois Lowry, this now classic young adult novel won the John Newbery Medal in 1990, a year after its publication. When the book first came out, Lowry was already established as the beloved author of children's books such as the Anastasia Krupnik series. (And later, she would get great props for her amazing YA book, The Giver.) But with Number the Stars, our author took a turn for the serious. This is a book about saving lives and doing what's right, regardless of (terrible) costs. The Newbery Medal isn't the only trophy on the book's shelf. Actually, it has won a whole bunch of awards given to awesome books for young adults. But it doesn't stop there. Number the Stars also received the National Jewish Book Award, which means that people who honor Jewish history and culture thought the book was important and valuable, and not just for young adults. Some people have thrown Lowry under the bus for not addressing the more terrible aspects of the Holocaust head on. So when she gave a speech accepting the Newbery Prize, she explained: As a writer, I find that I can only cover the small and the usual – the mittens of a shivering child – and hope that they conjure up the bigger events. The huge and terrible is beyond my powers (source). But you know what's not beyond her powers? Thoughts about friendship, family and morality. There are some pretty big topics to deal with, but Lowry is doing his best. Now, you tell me: do Number stars live up to the challenge? Holocaust. That's reason enough to care, don't you think? You can take a look at our Why Should I Care? at The Diary of Anne Frank for all the heavy things involved in reading a book about a young person living through the Holocaust. Have these reasons for care in front of your mind while you read, as they majorly important in Number the Stars.But what's unique about Lois Lowry's take on YA Holocaust lit? The main character here is not Jewish. If you've read the Book Thief, you might think so what? We'll tell you what. Number stars came first. Long first. Jews and other persecuted people were the real victims of the Holocaust, there is no doubt about that. But what about the people behind the scenes who risked their own lives to save the people they cared about? Reading about people like this —Peter, Annemarie, Henrik, the Johansens—allows us to see these non-Jews in leading roles rather than as smaller characters. Much Holocaust lit focuses on the Jews, and rightly so, but Lowry gives us a unique insight into other perspectives on the Nazi occupation. Of course, this perspective puts a majorly tough nugget on the table for us: what would you do if you were in a safe position but someone you loved wasn't? Would you risk your life to help them? The official Lois LowryWe must say, she seems like a pretty awesome lady. Excuse us as we go and read every book she's written. Interview With the authorWhat inspires our author? Dreams and daydreams, fantasies, memories, and imagination. Oh, and books. Read on for more fun treats. Red lutEnhere you will find a bunch of different versions of the history of Little Red Riding Hood. We still like that Annemarie is the best. History lesson wants to know more about what has been going on in Denmark during Annemarie's life? The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum site is at work. Movies or TV ProductionsNumber the stars: The movie Hmmm. We're not sure we're buying it, but fingers crossed. Historical DocumentsLowry Talks WritingWant to read more about our author and her writing process? Here you will find some pretty revealing thoughts about her other super-famous young adult book, The Giver.InspirationalDecades after its publication, Number the Stars is still helping inspire young people everywhere. Check out this article that talks about a classroom experience learning about the Holocaust.VideoReading RocketsJump from this page to Reading Rockets interview with Lowry, available at no cost on iTunes. Thanks Steve Jobs for giving us a VIP pass to our author's brain! (Scroll down to #7 to find Lowry's interview.) The Goonies and Number the Stars, Together on LastListen to Sean Astin talk about their plans to make a film version of Number the Stars. So far, no dice. But we are sticking to this video as evidence! AudioChildren's Book RadioListen as our lovely author talks about writing for children. Number Stars Out LoudSedsing there is still no movie, how about an audiobook? PhotosKungenRemember the story of the king riding freely through Copenhagen? Well here he is, do just that. Cover ArtCheck out this book cover from 2001-why do you think the Star of David's necklace did it? Join today and never see them again. By entering your email address, you agree to receive emails from Shmoop and verify that you are over 13 years of age. Switch Hubs Join today and never see them again. By entering your email address, you agree to receive emails from Shmoop and verify that you are over 13 years of age. Plot Analysis Annemarie and Ellen are ordinary girls living in extraordinary times (1940s Nazi-occupied Denmark). They don't have many luxuries, and they can't even run down the street without running into soldiers. Nothing is majorly getting in the way of their Gone With the Wind fun just yet, but there are problems a-brewin'. ConflictTargetsThe Nazis are starting to do their thing: they plan to round up all the Jews in Denmark and remove them. Bottom, scary line: the Rosens aren't safe in Denmark anymore.ComplicationNowhere to Run, Nowhere to HideThe Rosens must hide-but where? Johansens steps forward to take care of Ellen, but the Nazis come looking for her right away. Clearly this is not a safe enough solution, and they need to head to safer waters (literally). ClimaxAnnemarie steps upBese me the odds (and complications), Johansensen gets rosens and some other Jewish people safely out of the city and into the countryside, where the fisherman Henrik has committed to smuggle them across the sea to Sweden. The smuggling plan rests on a very important small package, which is supposed to be brought to Henrik. But the delivery schedule is going up in flames. Annemarie is the only one left who can try to get the package to Henrik. As she ascended—without hesitation—to deliver the package, we see a turning point for her character. She'll be a true hero. ExcitementThat hasn't let the dogs out? Annemarie must make it from Henry's house to Henry's boat all by herself. After a nail-biting journey through the woods, she runs into a bunch of Nazi soldiers—and their dogs. Will they put her in her tracks? Will the package ever come to Henrik? Will Ellen be safe? DenouementWhewSluttalla can relax a bit now that Annemarie and Henrik have both made it home safely. And most importantly, Ellen and her family made it to Sweden (that was the whole point to begin with!). As with any good resolution, there's some great explanation going on here. In this case, Henry explains to Annemarie what was in the package and why she was so greatly heroic for delivering it. Conclusion The end of World War II is also the end of history. The bad guys have finally been beaten and are withdrawing from Copenhagen. Soon Denmark will be safe for the Jews and Ellen and her family will be able to come back. We know that life will never be the same for our characters, but let's be honest: everything is better than what they all just experienced. Join today and never see them again. By entering your agree to receive e-mail from from and verify that you are over 13 years of age. 13.

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