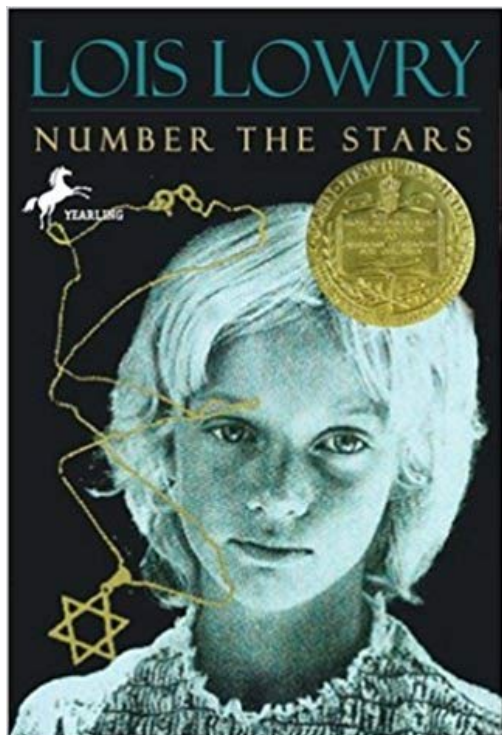


Number the Stars (Yearling Newbery) *by* Lois Lowry



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ISBN: 0440403278

ISBN13: 978-0440403272

Author: Lois Lowry

Book title: Number the Stars (Yearling Newbery)

Pages: 137

Publisher: Yearling; Reissue edition (August 1, 1990)

Language: English

Category: Literature and Fiction

Size PDF version: 1477 kb

Size ePUB version: 1259 kb

Size FB2 version: 1255 kb

Other formats: mbr mobi lrf txt

It's 1943 Copenhagen and the Jews of Denmark are being "relocated," so Annemarie Johansen's best friend, Ellen, moves in with the Johansens and pretends to be part of the family. When Annemarie is asked to go on a dangerous mission, she must find the courage to save her friend's life.



Reviews of the **Number the Stars (Yearling Newbery)** *by* Lois Lowry

Bumand

Easy read - written for youth but I read this in a College Course for Multiculturalism and Child Lit. Great story, easy to follow the story lines and characters and definitely written at an age appropriate level for middle school age or possibly a bit younger depending on maturity and interest. As an adult, I enjoyed the view of Annemarie and the innocence as we see things from her perspective, that of a young girl during WWII.

If you've read the Diary of Anne Frank, this is very different. There are some parts that may seem a little scary for younger children but by far, this is the best I've read for young ones. There are no graphic details of the trauma and abuse. While some things are mentioned in a way you get the idea that something bad has happened, its done in a way that is gentle for readers.

Ckelond

Number the stars is a wonderful story about bravery and friendship. It is set in occupied Denmark during WWII and tells the story of two families, the Johansen's and the Rosen's. The Johansen's are Danish and Christian and the Rosen's are Danish and Jewish. The families live in the same apartment block in Copenhagen and are very good friends.

The book discloses a lot of interesting facts about life in Copenhagen during WWII including the food and other shortages. I learned an awful lot about the war in this small European country through reading this book such as:

In 1943, the Danish resistance movement rescued all but 500 of its Jewish population of 7 000 to 8 000 from being sent to Nazi concentration camps by transporting them to neutral Sweden where they were offered asylum.

Denmark surrendered to the German invaders in 1940 as the King, Christian X, did not want to subject his people to a slaughter. He knew his army was no match for the Germans.

In August 1943, the Danes sank their entire navy in Copenhagen harbour as the German's approached to take the ships over for their own use.

There are some other fascinating historical facts included in this book that I won't reveal as they would be spoilers.

When the Jews are warned by their Rabbi at the Jewish New Year Celebration that the Nazi's were going to start rounding them up for deportation that night, Annemarie Johansen and Ellen Rosen are thrown into turmoil as both families act together to save the Rosen's from deportation and smuggle them to Sweden.

This book is for children aged 8 to 12 years old and is a wonderful way to introduce this age group to the horrors of war in an appropriate way. The book is not at all graphic but it does convey the fear and tragedy that is war.

This book won the Newbery Award.

Adaly

A fan of Lois Lowry, I was excited to read this with my child when she was assigned to choose a historical fiction book for an assignment. This was an awesome and educational choice. Out of 4 book report assignments, this one was her favorite read, mine too. It was especially interesting reading the Afterward, learning how fact and fiction merged into this beautiful tale of courage.

Jediathain

I loved reading this book when I was younger and now that I am much older loved to reread it to remember the damage that the Germans influence had on the war and on the Jews at the time of the war in Europe. I would recommend everyone to read this book and let your children learn about the strifes that the Jews faced and the people that helped them escape the hands of the Nazi soldier.

Welen

I loved this little book. Being of Danish extraction (and my husband Swedish) made it most interesting to me! I knew very little about how the Danes and Swedes helped the Jewish people during WWII, and this book made me very proud to be Scandinavian. The Danes rescued about 7000 Jews out of their country and into neutral Sweden in false bottom fishing boats. They used handkerchiefs stained with rabbit blood and cocaine to fool the noses of the German dogs who searched their boats.

I loved the fact that the Danes loved their King Christian X so much. When asked how he could feel safe going out and riding his horse among them everyday, the answer was that all of Denmark was his bodyguard.

My Grandmother's name was Ingeborg, too, as was the mother's in this story! It may be a children's book, but it is just as good for adults.

Shomeshet

Absolute classic. A tale of having a good heart and just being a good person. Not people pushing against the government b/c they had the freedom to, a story about people doing the right thing at the risk of their own lives. Story of friendships and love.

Corgustari

It is a very good book. My daughter read it in class in a week. It is a good length and fairly easy for different reading abilities to understand at different levels. There are deep, stimulating questions that can be discussed and easier topics that are equally impressive sounding for the students.

It's always so moving to read about people risking their lives to save their friends, neighbours and even people they may not know, just for the joy of help, of giving, of believing in the brotherhood of people living in the same country. The story of two families living in the same neighbourhood during the war, and when the time comes, one of them helps the other, without even hesitating, risking their lives, without worrying. And the lesson they gave their children, who learn which is the correct way of doing things in war time as well as in life itself! Very touching story

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