



# *Number the Stars*



## Introduction

# About the Author

## Lois Lowry



- Born in Hawaii in 1937.
- Received Newbery medals for *Number the Stars* and *The Giver*.
- The idea for this book came from a childhood friend who told her about her experiences during the Holocaust.



# Novel Scavenger Hunt

Directions: Find the following information by skimming through the book.



- Author
- Publisher
- Published Date
- Number of Pages
- Number of Chapters
- Awards

## Questions:

- What do you think the title means?
- Based on the summary, how interested are you in this novel?

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# Basic Summary



- The novel focuses on two ten-year-old girls and their experiences during this time.
- It is also a story about how brave many of the Danish people were.

# History Behind the Story



In 1943, war is raging in Europe and parts of Asia. Adolf Hitler and his German army have invaded countries surrounding Germany. Great Britain, France, the US, and the Soviet Union have joined together as Allies to fight the opposing forces.



# Adolf Hitler



- Hitler believed that blonde-haired, blue-eyed people, whom he incorrectly called Aryan, were a superior “master” race and that they should rule the world.
- He was the leader of the Nazi party, which thought that people of Slavic, African, and Jewish descent were inferior. He actually called the Jews the “most dangerous people in the world” that had to be eradicated.
- Soon after he gained power in Germany, he began a steady campaign to rid the country and Europe of Jews and other “non-Aryan” people.



# Adolf Hitler Continued



- In Germany, Hitler had Jews arrested and their businesses shut down.
- As Germany conquered other countries, Jews were forced to leave their homes and live in sections of cities called ghettos.



# The Final Solution



- In 1942, the German government came up with a “Final Solution” to the “Jewish Question.” The Jews and other “non-Aryans” would be taken to concentration camps. There, most would either be worked to death or killed in gas chambers.



# Jews in Denmark



- The Germans invaded Denmark on April 9, 1940 at 4:15 in the morning. Within 24 hours, Denmark was completely occupied by the Germans. At that time, there were 8,000 Jews living there. At first, Jews in Denmark did not have to live by many of the laws that governed other German-occupied countries.

## German occupation of Denmark



- However, in 1943 the Germans ordered the Jews in Denmark to wear yellow stars in order to be easily identified in public.

# Jews in Denmark Continued



- Millions of Jews had already died in other parts of Europe, and by 1943 the Germans ordered that all Jews in Denmark be rounded up and deported (forced to be removed from their homes and taken to concentration camps).
- But things did not happen as the Germans planned! A diplomat in the German government in Denmark did not believe that sending Jews from their homes was right, and he told Danish resistance leaders of the plan.

# Jews in Denmark Continued



- The word spread. Danish citizens told their Jewish friends and neighbors.
- Danish fisherman carried 7,200 Jews to safety in Sweden.
- Due to the support of the Danish people and the Danish government, Denmark had the highest Jewish survival rate of any country in Europe.



# *Number the Stars*

## Major Characters List



### The Johansens

- Mr. Johansen
- Mrs. Johansen
- Lise
- Annemarie
- Kirsti
- Henrik
- Peter Nielsen  
(friend)

### The Rosens (Jewish)

- Mr. Rosen
- Mrs. Rosen
- Ellen

# Central Ideas



- The following topics are important in the story and will help you to uncover the theme:
  - Bravery/Courage
  - Friendship
  - Pride
- While reading, think about what the author wants you to understand about these topics and, ultimately, what the theme of the novel is.

# Courage Quickwrite



Many people run into situations that require courage to stand up for someone else or something they believe in. Think about a situation in your own life when this happened. Write about what happened and what you or someone you know did.

