

number the stars chapter questions and answers

Number the Stars Chapter Questions and Answers

"Number the Stars" by Lois Lowry is a powerful historical fiction novel set during World War II in Nazi-occupied Denmark. The story revolves around the experiences of a young girl named Annemarie Johansen and her family as they help protect their Jewish friends, the Rosens, from persecution. The novel not only captures the innocence of childhood but also portrays the courage and resilience of individuals in the face of adversity. To delve deeper into the themes, characters, and events of the book, this article will provide chapter questions and answers that help facilitate discussion and understanding of the text.

Chapter 1: Why Are You Running?

Questions:

1. What historical context is introduced in this chapter?
2. How does the author establish the setting?
3. Describe Annemarie's relationship with her family.

Answers:

1. The chapter introduces the backdrop of Nazi occupation in Denmark during World War II, highlighting the tension and fear among the Danish citizens.
2. The setting is established through vivid descriptions of Copenhagen and the oppressive atmosphere created by German soldiers patrolling the streets.
3. Annemarie shares a close bond with her family, particularly her older sister, Kirsti, and her parents, who instill values of bravery and loyalty in their daughters.

Chapter 2: Who is the Man Who Was Wearing the Grey Coat?

Questions:

1. What role does the character of Peter Neilsen play in this chapter?
2. How does the author use foreshadowing in this chapter?
3. What is the significance of the grey coat mentioned in the title?

Answers:

1. Peter Neilsen is introduced as a family friend who is involved in the resistance movement, and his character represents hope and bravery against the oppression of the Nazis.
2. The author foreshadows future dangers faced by the Johansen family and the Rosens by hinting at the increasing risks associated with Jewish persecution.
3. The grey coat symbolizes the hidden identities and lives of those who are in danger, as well as the need for secrecy and protection in a time of crisis.

Chapter 3: Who is the Enemy?

Questions:

1. How does Annemarie's perception of the enemy evolve in this chapter?
2. What does the conversation between Annemarie and her mother reveal about their values?
3. How does the author depict the theme of bravery in this chapter?

Answers:

1. Annemarie grapples with her understanding of the enemy, transitioning from seeing them as faceless soldiers to recognizing their impact on her friends and family.

2. The conversation reveals the Johansen family's strong moral compass and commitment to standing up against injustice, emphasizing the importance of courage in difficult times.
3. Bravery is shown through the actions of Annemarie's family, who are willing to risk their safety to protect the Rosens, showcasing their commitment to doing what is right.

Chapter 4: It Will Be a Long Time

Questions:

1. What changes does Annemarie notice in her friend Ellen?
2. How does the author convey the sense of fear and uncertainty in this chapter?
3. What role does the concept of friendship play in this chapter?

Answers:

1. Annemarie notices that Ellen is more anxious and cautious due to the growing threats against Jewish people, which reflects the harsh realities of the time.
2. The author conveys fear and uncertainty through Annemarie's internal thoughts and the tense interactions among characters, creating a palpable sense of dread.
3. Friendship is highlighted as a source of strength and support, with Annemarie and Ellen demonstrating loyalty to each other in the face of danger.

Chapter 5: Why Are You So Quiet?

Questions:

1. What does the character of Mrs. Johansen reveal about parental roles during wartime?
2. How does the atmosphere change during the visit from the soldiers?

3. What does Annemarie learn about the importance of silence and secrecy?

Answers:

1. Mrs. Johansen embodies a protective maternal figure, showing how parents must balance love and fear while safeguarding their children during wartime.
2. The atmosphere becomes tense and oppressive when soldiers enter, emphasizing the constant threat of violence and the loss of safety for the characters.
3. Annemarie learns that silence and secrecy can be vital for survival, reinforcing the idea that sometimes keeping quiet can protect loved ones from danger.

Chapter 6: Is Uncle Henrik a Hero?

Questions:

1. How does Annemarie's view of her uncle change in this chapter?
2. What actions does Uncle Henrik take that demonstrate bravery?
3. How does the author portray the concept of heroism?

Answers:

1. Annemarie begins to see Uncle Henrik as a hero after learning about his role in helping Jewish refugees escape, showing her growing understanding of courage.
2. Uncle Henrik's decision to hide the Rosens and risk his own safety exemplifies bravery in the face of great personal risk.
3. The author portrays heroism as not just grand gestures but also through the quiet, everyday acts of individuals standing up against injustice.

Chapter 7: The Long and Dangerous Journey

Questions:

1. What challenges do the Rosens face during their escape?
2. How does Annemarie contribute to the Rosens' safety?
3. What role does fear play in this chapter?

Answers:

1. The Rosens face numerous challenges, including the threat of being caught by soldiers and the uncertainty of their journey to safety.
2. Annemarie contributes by providing crucial information and support to Ellen, demonstrating her bravery and resourcefulness.
3. Fear is a constant presence, shaping the characters' actions and decisions, but it also serves as a motivator for Annemarie's bravery.

Chapter 8: I Am Not Afraid

Questions:

1. How does Annemarie's character develop in this chapter?
2. What does the phrase "I am not afraid" signify for Annemarie?
3. How does the author illustrate the impact of war on children?

Answers:

1. Annemarie's character develops as she becomes more resolute and courageous, stepping into a role of responsibility in the face of danger.

2. The phrase signifies Annemarie's commitment to protect her friend and her growing sense of identity as someone who can make a difference.
3. The author illustrates the impact of war on children by showcasing their loss of innocence, highlighting the fears and burdens they carry while still trying to maintain hope.

Chapter 9: The Place of Safety

Questions:

1. What does the "place of safety" symbolize in this chapter?
2. How do the characters cope with their fears?
3. What message does the author convey about community and support?

Answers:

1. The "place of safety" symbolizes refuge and the importance of having a safe haven during tumultuous times, representing hope amid despair.
2. Characters cope with their fears through solidarity, relying on one another for emotional support and sharing their burdens.
3. The author conveys that community and support are essential during times of crisis, as they provide strength and resilience to face challenges.

Chapter 10: Let Us Hope

Questions:

1. How does the novel's tone shift in this chapter?
2. What themes of hope and resilience are explored?

3. How does Annemarie reflect on her experiences at the end of the chapter?

Answers:

1. The tone shifts to one of cautious optimism as the characters find moments of solace amidst their struggles, allowing for a sense of hope.
2. Themes of hope and resilience are explored through the characters' determination to survive and protect one another, even in the darkest times.
3. Annemarie reflects on her growth and newfound strength, realizing that even in the face of fear, hope can guide their actions.

Conclusion

"Number the Stars" serves as a poignant reminder of the impact of war on individuals and families, particularly children. Through the journey of Annemarie Johansen, Lois Lowry adeptly explores themes of courage, friendship, and the resilience of the human spirit. The chapter questions and answers provided in this article can serve as a tool for educators and readers alike, fostering deeper discussions about the moral complexities and historical realities depicted in the novel. As we reflect on Annemarie's story, we are reminded of the importance of standing up against injustice and the power of hope in even the most challenging of times.

Frequently Asked Questions

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

The main theme of 'Number the Stars' is the courage to stand up against oppression and the importance of friendship and family during difficult times.

How does Annemarie Johansen's character develop throughout the story?

Annemarie evolves from a naive girl into a brave and determined young woman, learning the importance of sacrifice and bravery in the face of danger.

What role does the concept of bravery play in 'Number the Stars'?

Bravery is a central concept, as characters like Annemarie and her family take significant risks to protect their Jewish friends and oppose Nazi oppression.

How does the author portray the relationship between Annemarie and her sister Kirsti?

The relationship between Annemarie and Kirsti highlights the innocence of childhood amidst the backdrop of war, with Annemarie often taking on a protective role.

What is the significance of the Star of David in the story?

The Star of David symbolizes Jewish identity and faith and represents the struggles faced by the Jewish community during the Holocaust.

How does the setting of Copenhagen during World War II influence the plot?

The setting creates a tense atmosphere that heightens the stakes for the characters, underscoring the danger they face under Nazi occupation.

What does the character of Peter Neilsen represent in 'Number the Stars'?

Peter Neilsen represents the resistance movement and the fight against Nazi oppression, embodying

the hope and determination of those who stood against tyranny.

How does the author use foreshadowing in the novel?

Foreshadowing is used to hint at future events, such as the dangers Annemarie and her family will face, and to build suspense throughout the narrative.

What lessons does Annemarie learn about adulthood and responsibility?

Annemarie learns that adulthood comes with difficult choices and responsibilities, particularly when it comes to protecting those we love.

How does 'Number the Stars' address the concept of memory and storytelling?

The novel emphasizes the importance of memory and storytelling as a means of preserving history and honoring the experiences of those who suffered during the Holocaust.

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