

## **Number the Stars**

**Lois Lowry**

**Reviewed by: Anika 17**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

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Growing up together in their beloved home of Denmark, Ellen and Annemarie have been the best of friends. But when WWII rolls around, Denmark finds itself in a tight spot. Germany gives Denmark no choice but to serve under German occupation. Now food is scarce and even worse, German soldiers are around every corner. Ellen and her family find themselves in danger with their Jewish beliefs. Annemarie's family decides to take an enormous risk to shelter Ellen and her family, doing their best to outwit the German soldiers at every turn. But soon it is Annemarie's turn to be brave, and she's willingly to do what it takes to save her best friend's life.

Lois Lowry does an amazing job blending in historical fact and storytelling to create a beautifully written novel. It turns out there were several elements to the story that were historical fact, as acknowledged by the author in the afterword. I really appreciated the historical tidbits about Denmark, like the strong dedication Danish people had for their country and king during the struggles of German occupation. King Christian seems to be quite the leader from what I've seen, and I was intrigued to learn about his leadership through this story. Most people don't necessarily think when they hear something about World War II, so I liked how *Number the Stars* was very informative about Denmark's time during WWII. In fact, the novel has won the Newbery Medal and National Jewish Book Award for Children's Literature amongst others. There's no surprise there, knowing the approach Lois Lowry takes to intertwine increasingly tense powerful moments with the reappearing symbol of stars to showcase the bravery and idealism of the Danish people during WWII. All in all, Lois Lowry's craftful manipulation of the text allows for a sweet yet deep and profound story of a Danish girl who bravely comes to the aid of her Jewish friend during World War II.

There are violent elements within this book to look out for, with tense interactions with German soldiers and mentions of death and injury. There is an infant that is drugged within the story to keep her quiet during a dangerous night. I feel that I would have been more touched by this story when I was younger. So with its positive messages and role models, I would recommend this novel for anyone 10 years or older. *Number the Stars* would make a great gift to fans of historical fiction and anyone looking for a short emotional story that features a brave young girl.

### **Recommended Titles:**

*The Giver* by Lois Lowry (*The Giver*, #1)

*Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry (*The Giver*, #2)

*Messenger* by Lois Lowry (*The Giver*, #3)

*Son* by Lois Lowry (*The Giver*, #4)

*Gossamer* by Lois Lowry