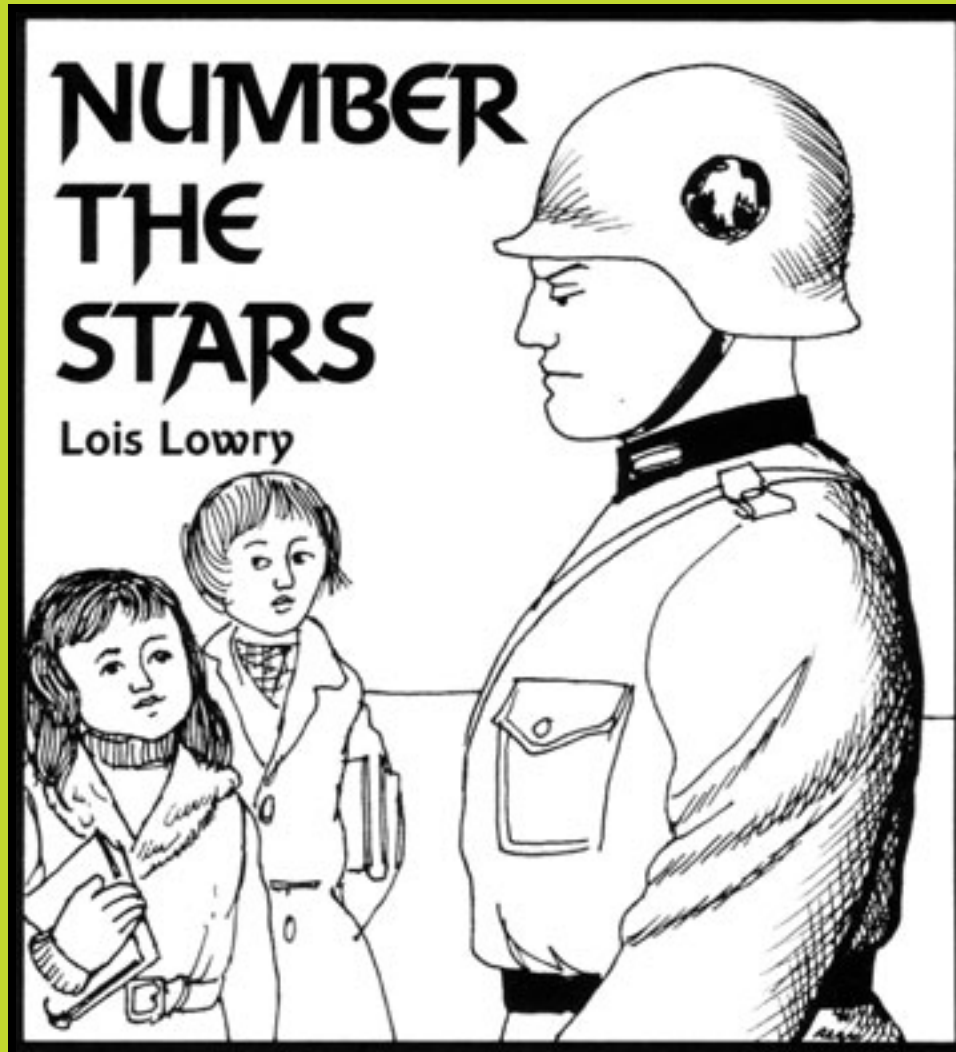


Novel·Ties



A Study Guide

Written By Barbara Reeves

Edited by Joyce Friedland and Rikki Kessler

LEARNING LINKS

P.O. Box 326 • Cranbury • New Jersey 08512

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For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide to use in conjunction with the novel *Number the Stars* consists of lessons for guided reading. Written in chapter-by-chapter format, the guide contains a synopsis, pre-reading activities, vocabulary and comprehension exercises, as well as extension activities to be used as follow-up to the novel.

In a homogeneous classroom, whole class instruction with one title is appropriate. In a heterogeneous classroom, reading groups should be formed: each group works on a different novel at its own reading level. Depending upon the length of time devoted to reading in the classroom, each novel, with its guide and accompanying lessons, may be completed in three to six weeks.

Begin using NOVEL-TIES for reading development by distributing the novel and a folder to each child. Distribute duplicated pages of the study guide for students to place in their folders. After examining the cover and glancing through the book, students can participate in several pre-reading activities. Vocabulary questions should be considered prior to reading a chapter; all other work should be done after the chapter has been read. Comprehension questions can be answered orally or in writing. The classroom teacher should determine the amount of work to be assigned, always keeping in mind that readers must be nurtured and that the ultimate goal is encouraging students' love of reading.

The benefits of using NOVEL-TIES are numerous. Students read good literature in the original, rather than in abridged or edited form. The good reading habits, formed by practice in focusing on interpretive comprehension and literary techniques, will be transferred to the books students read independently. Passive readers become active, avid readers.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 1939, Nazi Germany invaded Poland, marking the beginning of World War II. By 1945, the war touched almost every part of the globe. Allied nations, consisting of as many as fifty countries, joined together to fight the Axis forces of Germany, Japan, and Italy. Battles raged in Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific. Norway, Denmark, and Sweden attempted to remain neutral. Only Sweden, however, succeeded in maintaining neutrality, for on April 9, 1940, Germany invaded both Norway and Denmark.

When the Germans attacked the tiny country of Denmark, Christian X was king. Although the Danish people were forced to accept German occupation under protest, their beloved King Christian remained on the throne, becoming a patriotic symbol to the Danes. King Christian's daily rides from his palace and his refusal to punish Danish Resistance fighters served to strengthen the Danes' patriotism and purpose. As the war progressed, Danish Resistance activities increased and acts of sabotage successfully destroyed factories and transportation facilities vital to the Nazi purpose. Angered by this sabotage, as well as by Dutch patriotism, the Germans took control of the Danish government in August 1943. At that time, Christian X was interned in his own palace and made a virtual prisoner. Even so, King Christian remained a symbol of resistance to the Danes who went so far as to destroy their own navy so that Germans could not use it for their own goals.

Although the Danes demonstrated their strength and courage in many ways during the war, perhaps their greatest act of heroism was to save their Jewish population from extinction at the hands of the Nazis. In 1943, the Germans devised a plan in which they would round up all the Jews in Denmark and transport them to death camps in Germany. This plan was to be carried out on the second day of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, when most Jews would be at home or at their synagogues. When word of the hideous plan leaked out, the Danish Resistance took action. Jews were taken in by friends, neighbors, and courageous strangers. They were fed, clothed, and hidden from danger until the time was right. Then they were smuggled by boat across the water to neutral Sweden where a safe haven awaited them. Through this remarkable act of heroism, the country of Denmark was able to save almost its entire population of approximately seven-thousand Jews from death at the hands of Nazi Germany.

CHAPTERS 1 – 3

Vocabulary: Draw a line from each word on the left to its definition on the right. Then use the numbered words to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1. obstinate | a. in a way that is arrogant and scornful of others |
| 2. occupation | b. man to whom a woman is engaged to be married |
| 3. sabotage | c. stubborn; unyielding |
| 4. impassive | d. destruction or willful damage of property or resources |
| 5. trousseau | e. possession of a country by military force |
| 6. fiancé | f. bride's collection of clothing and linens |
| 7. rationed | g. limited in amount |
| 8. haughtily | h. showing no emotion |

.....

- Food had to be _____ during wartime when much of the produce was shipped out to feed the troops.
- The young woman looked longingly at the clothes in her _____, knowing that the wedding would be put off until the war was over.
- It is important to remain _____ while being questioned by the border guards, so as not to reveal the hidden passengers.
- The _____ of Denmark by the Nazis created a hardship for the entire population.
- If you are too _____ to come in out of the rain, you will get soaked.
- My daughter and her _____ hope to be married within a year.
- The derailed train could only have been the result of _____.
- Despite her shabby clothing, she answered the soldier _____ when asked if she lived at the palace.

Read to find out how the Nazis treated Jews in Denmark.