

Comprehension Questions
Number the Stars

Name: _____

Chapter 1:

Literal Questions

1. Name the two main characters.
2. Give the physical description of each girl.
3. Why were Annemarie, Ellen, and Kirsti stopped by the soldiers?
4. What advice did Mrs. Rosen give the girls about behaving outside?
5. How did Annemarie show her dislike of the German soldiers occupying her country?
6. Why isn't Kirsti afraid of the soldiers?
7. Why do you think the "Free Danes" newspaper was important in Denmark during the war years?

Chapter 2:

1. What happened to Annemarie's sister, Lise?
2. Why does Peter visit the Johansen's?
3. What are some hardships faced by the Danish people because of the war?
4. How was King Christian different than other kings?
5. Why didn't the Danish army fight the Germans when they invaded Denmark?

Chapter 3:

1. What did Annemarie realize about her friend Ellen after Peter's visit?
2. How did Annemarie know the Hirsch's were not gone on a holiday?
3. What items were being rationed? Why?
4. What happened to Mrs. Hirsch?
5. Why did the girls always take a different route to school?
6. Explain what is meant by the line "Friends will take care of them". (Pg. 22 of the green/purple book and pg. 24 of the black book).
7. Explain the following sentence from p. 23 (green/purple book) or p. 25 (black book) of the novel:
"All of Denmark must be bodyguards for the Jews...." Annemarie said
8. On page 24 (green/purple book) or page 26 (black book), explain why the author might have chosen to write the last sentence. What might be foreshadowed by this statement.

Chapter 4:

1. What were the "fireworks" Kirsti remembered?
2. How did the Germans find out the names of the Danish Jews?
3. Why was Kirsti upset when she and her mother returned from shopping? What was Ellen's solution to the problem?
4. Why was the Tivoli Gardens important to the Danes of Copenhagen?
5. Why would Annemarie and Ellen need to pretend that they are sisters?

Chapter 5:

1. What was Annemarie told about the death of her older sister Lise?
2. Why did the German soldiers come to the Johansen's apartment looking for the Rosen's?
3. How did Mr. Johansen convince the German soldiers that Ellen was not a Jewish girl hiding?
4. How did the German soldiers show a lack of respect for the Johansens?
5. Why was it important that Ellen remove her Star of David necklace?
6. Why had Mr. and Mrs. Johansen not looked at Lise's things since the accident?
7. "The whole world was crying". What is this line a metaphor for?
8. What was the purpose in the soldiers' visit?

Chapter 6:

1. What do you think "cigarettes" are? Why does Papa state there are many in Copenhagen?
2. What was Mama's true reason for choosing the country path to Uncle Henrik's house?
3. Why was Annemarie worried when the soldiers questioned them on the train?
4. Why did they travel to Uncle Henrik's house?

Chapter 7:

1. What's the danger in the girls talking to others?
2. What does the sea represent for Ellen and her family?
3. Why did Mrs. Johansen ask the girls if they saw anyone while playing near the shore?
4. What was the name of Uncle Henrik's boat and where did he get the name?
5. What did Annemarie do with Ellen's necklace?

Chapter 8:

1. Why do the adults keep referring to the term "good fishing"?
2. Why is Annemarie so confused about the death of Great-Aunt Birte?
3. How did Annemarie make fun of the German soldiers?
4. What is the old custom when someone dies? What did the family have to do to prepare for the funeral?
5. Why is Annemarie so delighted to have oatmeal, milk, cream, and butter at breakfast?
6. Why, when his sister and his nieces were visiting, would Uncle Henrik spend the whole night on his boat?

Chapter 9:

1. Why did Ellen make a sharp cry when she went outside with Henrik?
2. Why didn't Annemarie tell Ellen the truth about Aunt Birte?
3. Why was Kirsti sent to bed before Aunt Birte's funeral?
4. Who do you think the people arriving for the funeral really are?
5. Why does Uncle Henrik suggest that it's better to be brave if you don't know all the facts?
6. What is implied about Annemarie and Mama by the lines:
"Annemarie knew that Mama was lying again, and she could see that Mama understood that she knew. They looked at each other for a long time and said nothing. In that moment, with that look, they became equals."

Chapter 10:

1. Explain why the soldiers came to the farm house.
2. Why did they want to see in the casket? How did Mama stop them?
3. Why is Peter's reading from the Bible so important?

4. What is Ellen's view of the "fake" funeral?

Chapter 11:

1. Why did the officer slap Mama? Why doesn't anyone go to defend Mama?
2. Why didn't Mr. Rosen ask what was in the package that Peter gave him to take to Uncle Henrik?
3. What was the purpose of Aunt Birte's funeral?
4. What was in the casket and why was it there?
5. Where were the Rosens and the other strangers going?

Chapter 12:

1. What promise did Ellen make to Annemarie?
2. What advice on walking the trail did Mrs. Johansen give the Rosens? How did Annemarie pass the time while waiting for her mother?
3. Explain the following thoughts of Annemarie, "It was harder for the ones who were waiting, Annemarie knew. Less dangerous, perhaps, but more fear."

Chapter 13:

1. What happened to Mrs. Johansen on her way back from Uncle Henrik's boat?
2. What had Mr. Rosen dropped at Uncle Henrik's house?
3. What does Annemarie use as a "cover story" in order to get the package to Uncle Henrik?
4. What do you think Mrs. Johansen meant when she said that "it may all have been for nothing" when she spotted the parcel?
5. Why did Mrs. Johansen tell Annemarie to act like a silly little girl if she were stopped?

Chapter 14:

1. Why would Annemarie be reciting "Little Red Riding Hood" to herself as she went?
2. What does the wolf from "Little Red Riding Hood" symbolize for Annemarie?
3. Describe what happened to Annemarie on the way to the boat?

Chapter 15:

1. Why do you think the German soldiers stopped Annemarie?
2. Why do you think the contents of the packet were so important?
3. Why did Annemarie behave like Kirsti when she was stopped by the German soldiers?
4. Why was it good that Annemarie did not know what was in the packet?
5. What was in the basket that helped fool the Germans into thinking it was Uncle Henrik's lunch?

Chapter 16:

1. What would have happened if Annemarie had not gotten the handkerchief to Uncle Henrik?
2. What was Uncle Henrik's explanation for each of the following:
 - a. Annemarie not seeing the Rosens in the boat

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- b. The use of a drug on the baby

 - c. The handkerchief
3. What did Annemarie learn about Peter from Uncle Henrik?
 4. What were the two clues that should have clued Annemarie in about Peter?

Chapter 17:

1. What does Annemarie wearing Ellen's necklace show?
2. Why was everyone celebrating in Denmark?
3. What happened to Peter?
4. What did Annemarie learn about Lise?

Overall Question:

What was the author's purpose in using young children to portray this story?