***Number the Stars***

***Chapter 13***

***Summary:***

### ***Run! As Fast As You Can!***

* Annemarie goes right over to her mom. She's really worried, but her mother reassures her that everything went fine. Ellen and her parents got to the boat with no problems. Whew.
* Mrs. Johansen wasted no time getting out of there, but she was going too fast and fell. She hurt herself pretty badly and it took forever to crawl home.
* Mrs. Johansen asks Annemarie to help her, and they pause in front of the house to rest. That's when Annemarie sees something in the yard: it's the little package that Mr. Rosen was supposed to take to Henrik.
* Uh oh.
* Mrs. Johansen is horrified that it wasn't delivered. She's incredibly upset, but she can't do anything about it because she's in such pain.
* Even though she doesn't know the specifics, Annemarie knows that the package is super-important and that it absolutely has to go to Henrik. She says she'll deliver it immediately.
* We told you she was brave.
* Mrs. Johansen gives her instructions: she should hide it in a food basket, try to avoid people, and go as quickly as she can to Henrik. Annemarie is supposed to act completely innocent (and even a little dumb) if anyone catches her.
* They embrace, and Annemarie is off.

***Brief Summary:***

Annemarie runs to her mother. Mama tells her she's okay and warns her to keep her voice down. Hurrying back along the path in the dark after safely delivering the Rosens to Henrik, Inge had stumbled on a root and broken her ankle in her haste to get back to her daughters. Inge has been crawling along the path for an hour. Now, with her daughter's support, she is able to stand and walk to the house. She tells Annemarie she'll need her help washing the leaves and grass off herself before calling the doctor to tell him she tripped on the stairs inside the house. Inge assures her daughter that the boat will sail soon, and her friends will be safe, but as they reach the kitchen door where Mr. Rosen had stumbled before, Annemarie finds a package on the ground. In the darkness, no one had noticed that Mr. Rosen had dropped the important package Peter had given him to deliver to Henrik. Mama is horrified; without the package, all their efforts will have been for nothing.

But Annemarie reminds her mother that she can run like the wind, and that she, too, knows the way through the woods to the harbor. She offers to take the package to Uncle Henrik. Mama wastes no time. She instructs Annemarie to put the package at the bottom of a lunch basket, and to cover it with cheese and an apple. Annemarie does this, adding a loaf of bread. As she prepares to sprint down the path with her basket, Inge tells her daughter that if the soldiers stop her for any reason, she should pretend to be a silly, empty-headed little girl who is taking her uncle the lunch he forgot at home that morning.

***Brief Analysis:***

Annemarie is now a full-fledged participant in the scheme to elude the Germans. That her mother sees her as capable was already clear from the moment Annemarie ran out to help her mother off the ground. Inge tells her daughter everything that happened, making no attempt to censor herself or keep any information from Annemarie. Inge's judgment proves correct when Annemarie notices the fallen package. Had Annemarie not waited up to help her mother, or not been so observant as they entered the house together, the entire scheme would have collapsed without the important package. Thus Annemarie's participation has already been critical to their success even before she offers to run the package to her uncle.

The change in the mother-daughter relationship is even more obvious from the way Inge wastes no time trying to talk her daughter out of going. Both she and Annemarie are aware of both the danger and the necessity of the trip, so Inge doesn't waste a single precious second deciding if her daughter should go. Instead she uses those precious seconds to devise a plan which will protect her daughter as much as possible from discovery.

***Critical Study:***

Annemarie runs out the door calling to her mother. Mrs. Johansen tries to quiet her, assuring Annemarie that she is all right. Mrs. Johansen sits up, but winces. Annemarie asks what happened. Her mother says the important thing is that the Rosens are with Henrik. Mrs. Johansen hurried to get home and fell when she was about halfway through the trip. She thinks her ankle is broken. Annemarie helps her up, despite the evident pain it causes Mrs. Johansen. Her mother praises Annemarie for being so strong and brave. They get to the steps of the house and rest. Soon the boat will sail. Annemarie notices something in the grass: the packet Peter gave Mr. Rosen.

Mrs. Johansen is stunned. The packet must have slipped from Mr. Rosen's pocket when he tripped on his way out. Annemarie asks what the packet is. Mrs. Johansen does not answer her daughter's question. She groans and says that their efforts "may have been for nothing." Annemarie says she will take it. She hides it in a basket under some food. Her mother tells her to run. If any soldiers stop her Annemarie must pretend to be a "silly, empty-headed little girl." Annemarie asks again what is in the packet, but her mother tells her to go.

In Chapter 12, Annemarie must say goodbye to her closest childhood friend. Ellen's departure is another big change in Annemarie's life. After Ellen leaves, Annemarie cries for the first time. Despite the sad fact of her separation from Ellen, Annemarie is most concerned about her mother. A role reversal has occurred. Annemarie is at home alone, waiting and worrying about Mrs. Johansen, playing the role that mothers usually play when their children are away. But now Annemarie is the one alone hoping her mother is okay. She thinks of her father, who must also be up worrying. Annemarie identifies with Mr. Johansen. Normally her mother would be the one to feel the same way as Mr. Johansen, which is also part of the reversal.

Annemarie continues to be motherly when she discovers Mrs. Johansen sprawled outside. She helps her mother and takes care of her as best she can. The discovery of Peter's packet gives Annemarie an important mission. Now it is her turn to be brave. She will have to do what an adult would do under different circumstances. The trip is dangerous, and soldiers could mean trouble. Paradoxically, Mrs. Johansen tells Annemarie to act like a dim little girl if she runs into any soldiers. Annemarie is young person doing an adult's job, but she must be prepared to play the role of an innocent child. This jumble of acting like an adult and a child is metaphorical for the struggle Annemarie has been facing. She is constantly being caught between the childhood and the adult worlds. Annemarie has already discovered that the line between lying to people and protecting them is not always clear. Now she sees the same lack of distinction complicating the difference between being a child and being an adult.

Chance plays a significant role in the unfolding of the night's events. Had Mr. Rosen not tripped, he probably would not have dropped the packet. If Mrs. Johansen had not hurt her ankle, she could have taken the packet to Henrik. If Mrs. Johansen had not hurt her ankle and had come home while it was still dark, it is unlikely that they would have noticed the packet lying on the ground. Chance influences all these things, and points to the fact that it is matter of chance whether or not Henrik will make is safely to Sweden. As Mrs. Johansen says, it might have all been for nothing. This underlines how delicate the situation is. All has gone well, but they are all still a long way from safety.

***Critical Analysis:***

Annemarie goes out to her mother, who says she is all right and that the Rosens are with [Uncle Henrik](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Number-the-Stars/character-analysis/#Uncle_Henrik). She tells Annemarie she was halfway home when she tripped over a root. She had broken her ankle but crawled home, and now, she says, they will call the doctor and say she fell on the stairs.

Then Annemarie sees the packet [Peter Neilsen](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Number-the-Stars/character-analysis/#Peter_Neilsen) had given Mr. Rosen. It must have fallen out of his pocket when he fell on the steps outside the house on his way to Henrik's boat. Her mother says, "It may all have been for nothing." Annemarie knows the packet contains something very important and offers to take it to Uncle Henrik. Her mother has her get a basket and put the packet, an apple, and cheese in it. Annemarie adds some bread. Her mother tells her if "anyone stops you, you must pretend to be nothing more than a little girl. A silly, empty-headed little girl taking lunch to a fisherman." She sends Annemarie off, urging her to run.

Here is the moment when an ordinary person, a child, must act in a very courageous way. This point comes after numerous prior experiences when Annemarie demonstrated courage: facing the soldiers when she was coming home from school, hiding Ellen's [Star of David](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Number-the-Stars/symbols/#Star_of_David) necklace when the soldiers came to the apartment, facing the soldiers while knowing the funeral is a fake, and staying home alone while her mother and uncle rescue their Jewish neighbors and friends.

This time, however, there is no one at her side. Annemarie is alone in her act of courage, and the lives of others rest on her ability to succeed. This is a heavy weight to put on anyone; it is an enormous weight to put on a 10-year-old girl. At the beginning of the novel Annemarie believed that "an ordinary person would never be called on for courage." As the novel has progressed she has learned that she was grossly mistaken. Ordinary people are asked to act courageously, and Annemarie has done so admirably. Courage is taught by her parents, her best friends, the Rosens, [Peter Neilsen](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Number-the-Stars/character-analysis/#Peter_Neilsen), [Uncle Henrik](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Number-the-Stars/character-analysis/#Uncle_Henrik), and the Jews who gathered at the fake funeral. All of those lessons and small acts of courage culminate in this—a perilous journey through the woods in the face of great danger to save friends and strangers alike.

***Significance:***

Annemarie rushes to the path to see what is wrong with Mama. When she arrives, Mama explains that she tripped over a root on the way back from the harbor and has broken her ankle. Because she could not walk, it took her hours to drag herself up the path to the house. Annemarie helps her inside, and they decide that they will call a doctor and pretend Mama fell on the stairs. As they climb the stairs to the house, they notice a packet on the porch. Mama realizes that it is the packet Peter gave to Mr. Rosen.

Although she does not tell Annemarie the contents of the packet, Mama explains that if Uncle Henrik does not get the packet, the Rosens cannot sail and all of the risks they have taken will be for nothing. Mama tells Annemarie to pack a lunch and deliver the packet to Uncle Henrik down at the harbor. If anyone stops her, Annemarie is to pretend that her uncle forgot his lunch and she is delivering it to him.

In Chapter 13, Lowry shows readers that even though the danger seems to be over, Mama and Annemarie must still be careful what they tell each other. Mama knows that telling Annemarie the contents of the packet would put her in unnecessary danger, so she tells Annemarie only what she needs to know to save the Rosens. Similarly, Mama endures the pain of her broken ankle instead of calling for help immediately. She knows that if the village doctor finds out what she was doing, she will put the Rosens and the other refugees in danger.

Throughout the novel, Mama has been reluctant to involve Annemarie in the rescue plan. She knows that the Germans will not show Annemarie mercy just because she is young. However, she is ultimately forced to make Annemarie part of the mission when the Rosens’ lives are in danger. Like Peter, Mama demonstrates what it means to sacrifice for the greater good. Although she loves her daughter as much as anyone in the world, Mama is willing to put her at risk if it means saving the lives of many people. However, Mama also knows that Annemarie is strong and brave. She has faith in her daughter, and has watched her mature over the past few days. Mama would like her children to have peaceful childhoods like she did, but in this moment of desperation, she is forced to give up that fantasy.

***Summary and Analysis Part by Part:***

***Summary Part 1:***

[Annemarie](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/number-the-stars/characters/annemarie-johansen) dashes out of the house and runs through the meadow to the edge of the woods, calling for her [Mama](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/number-the-stars/characters/mrs-johansen-mama). When she gets to her mother’s side, she is relieved to see that she’s all right. Mama says that everyone is safe with [Uncle Henrik](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/number-the-stars/characters/uncle-henrik)—on the way back from the docks, though, she tripped and hurt her ankle. She continued to drag herself through the woods, determined to make it home by morning. Annemarie helps her mother stand and supports her as she hobbles all the way back up to the house. As they walk together, Mama is visibly in pain but also happy to have made it home. She asks Annemarie what time it is, and when Annemarie says it’s about four-thirty, Mama says happily that Henrik, [Mr. Rosen](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/number-the-stars/characters) and [Mrs. Rosen](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/number-the-stars/characters), and the other Jews will soon be setting sail for Sweden.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Annemarie is terrified that something awful has befallen her mother, and is relieved to see that even though Mama has sustained a minor injury, her spirit is intact. Annemarie believes that the worst is over—Mama is safe, their family is intact, and the Rosens will soon be on their way to freedom.

***Summary Part 2:***

At the steps leading up to the house, [Annemarie](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/number-the-stars/characters/annemarie-johansen) spots something in the grass. She bends to pick it up—it is the packet [Peter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/number-the-stars/characters/peter-neilsen) gave to [Mr. Rosen](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/number-the-stars/characters). Seeing what it is, [Mama](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/number-the-stars/characters/mrs-johansen-mama) nearly swoons—she worries that their work will “all have been for nothing” without the packet. Annemarie tells Mama that she will take the packet down to the docks. Inside, Mama tells Annemarie to go into the house, put some apples, bread, and cheese into a basket, and bury the packet at the bottom of it. As Annemarie heads out the door, her mother urges her to act like a “silly, empty-headed little girl, taking lunch to a fisherman” if a soldier stops her on the road. Annemarie kisses her mother and goes, as her Mama calls out for her to run as fast as she can.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Annemarie’s happiness is shattered as she realizes that a crucial piece of the mission to save the Rosens has been left behind. Without hesitation, Annemarie accepts that she must be the one to deliver it—the Rosens’ freedom rests entirely on her shoulders, and she is at last being called upon to act bravely, and alone, in pursuit of the freedom of her friends, neighbors, and indeed her “sister” Ellen.