***Number the Stars***

***Chapter 6***

***Brief Summary:***

Everyone except the still sleeping Kirsti remains in the living room, talking, after the soldiers leave. Papa admits he hadn't thought they would become suspicious so easily. Ellen apologizes for her dark hair, but Mama tells her it's beautiful and remarks what luck it was that Lise was born with dark curls, which hadn't turned blonde until Lise was two years old. Papa makes a joke about Lise's hair, and Annemarie realizes it's the first time in three years that her parents have spoken of Lise.

As dawn begins to lighten the sky, Papa tells the girls it is too dangerous for them to go to school today, because the soldiers may be at the schools to round up Jewish children. Papa tells his wife, Inge, that they should take the girls to Uncle Henrik's house, based on what Peter had told them earlier. Mama agrees, but insists she take them alone. After protesting, Papa sees the wisdom in her plan, for if they all went together, it would look suspicious, but if she goes alone with the girls, she can act like it's just a normal visit to her brother. They call Henrik, catching him early enough in the morning that he has not yet left on his fishing boat.

Annemarie listens carefully to her father's telephone conversation. He seems to be speaking in code, making reference to the carton of cigarettes Inge will be bringing Henrik, plus all the other cartons he can expect to receive shortly. Annemarie knows cigarettes are in as short supply as cupcakes, and then she realizes that the "carton of cigarettes" her mother is bringing Henrik is a coded reference to Ellen.

The girls are cheerful on the train ride. Annemarie loves her uncle's house on the Danish coast, and Ellen, whose mother is afraid of the ocean, has never been to the beach before. At Klampenborg station, German soldiers board the train; they ask Mama her business. Inge replies that she and the children are off to visit her brother for the day. The soldier, hoping to trip her up, asks if she's visiting her brother for the New Year. Mama looks puzzled, reminding him that it's only October. Kirsti pipes up, and Annemarie is afraid she's about to tell the soldier that it is New Year for Ellen. To everyone's relief, the little girl only proudly informs the soldier that she's wearing her new shiny black shoes to her uncle's house. When they get off the train and walk through the familiar neighborhood to Uncle Henrik's house, Mama points out a few of the sights along the way. She grew up in the house they're about to visit and has fond memories of walking through the town with her dog, Trofast.

***Brief Analysis:***

The parents are no longer pretending for the children's sake. The comfortable fiction they've maintained that everything is under control and everyone is safe has dissolved with the intrusion of the Nazi soldiers. For their own survival, Annemarie and Ellen must be told of the danger, at least to a certain extent. The danger of not explaining things to them is revealed on the train, during the terrible moment when it seems Kirsti is about to innocently expose Ellen to the soldiers. The girls' parents have to make difficult choices about how much to tell them and how much to protect them from.

The picturesque surroundings of Inge's hometown serve as a poignant contrast to better days. In the past, Annemarie remembers the train rides to Uncle Henrik's, which were always a lot of fun before the German soldiers arrived. The girls today remark on the scenery and the interesting places they pass, but it is like looking out on a world which is barred to them now. Inge admits as much when she optimistically tells Ellen that one day she, too, will be able to visit the Deer Park, but, of course, there is no mention nor thought of visiting it today, for such innocent pursuits are reserved for safer times.

***Critical Study:***

Chapter VI: Is the Weather Good for Fishing?

Mr. and Mrs. Johansen think about what they should do. Ellen apologizes for being trouble, particularly her dark hair. Mrs. Johansen tells Ellen her hair is beautiful and adds how lucky they were that Lise had dark hair as a baby. The talk of Lise makes Annemarie happy, since she has not heard her parents speak about Lise since Lise's death. The Johansens decide that Ellen and Annemarie will go to Uncle Henrik's house instead of to school. Mrs. Johansen says she will make the trip alone with the girls in order to raise less suspicion. Mr. Johansen protests at this, but then agrees with his wife. Mr. Johansen calls Henrik and asks if "the weather is good for fishing." Annemarie thinks this is a bizarre question, because Henrik is a fisherman and will go out rain or shine. Mr. Johansen says he is sending his wife to visit along with a "carton of cigarettes." The cigarettes further puzzle Annemarie, for she knows there have not been any available for a while. Then Annemarie realizes that her father is speaking in code; the carton of cigarettes is Ellen. Mr. Johansen says that other cartons will come soon.

Mrs. Johansen, Annemarie, Kirsti and Ellen take the train to Gilleleje, where Uncle Henrik lives. On the way, soldiers come through the wagon. They ask Mrs. Johansen where she is going and if she is paying a visit for the New Year. Annemarie's fears that Kirsti will say it is Ellen's New Year, but she does not, and the soldiers leave. Once in Gilleleje, the foursome walk through the forest to the house where Mrs. Johansen grew up. Kirsti chats about the castle they saw on the trip, insisting that kings and queens live there. When Annemarie tries to correct her, Mrs. Johansen says, "Let her dream." Mrs. Johansen points out the garden her aunt used to keep and the place where her dog used to wait for her after school.

After the soldiers leave, [Mr. Johansen](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Number-the-Stars/character-analysis/#Mr._Johansen) begins to figure out what to do. Ellen apologizes for having dark hair. [Mrs. Johansen](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Number-the-Stars/character-analysis/#Mrs._Johansen) tells her not to apologize for her beautiful hair, and they talk of Lise. It is the first time in three years they do so.

The Johansens decide the girls ought to skip school and go to [Uncle Henrik](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Number-the-Stars/character-analysis/#Uncle_Henrik)'s house. Mrs. Johansen points out it would draw less attention if she went with the girls and Mr. Johansen stayed behind. He reluctantly agrees. He calls Mrs. Johansen's brother, Uncle Henrik, and asks if the weather is good for fishing. He tells Henrik that he's sending "a carton of cigarettes." Annemarie knows this is untrue. There are no cigarettes in Denmark at this time. The war means goods like cigarettes are scarce and rationed. Then she realizes that it's a code—the "one carton" he is sending is [Ellen Rosen](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Number-the-Stars/character-analysis/#Ellen_Rosen).

The three girls and Mrs. Johansen board the train, and on it, they meet more soldiers. When Mrs. Johansen says they are visiting her brother, the soldiers ask if they are doing so for "for the New Year." Mrs. Johansen pretends not to understand they are asking about Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year). Then, Kirsti pipes up. Annemarie is afraid her little sister is going to expose Ellen, but all she does is show the soldiers her "brand-new shiny black shoes." They arrive at the station and walk through the woods to Uncle Henrik's house along the seashore.

***Critical Analysis:***

This chapter continues the discussion of visual appearance. Ellen is aware that her dark hair is suspicious, and she apologizes. Rather than allow her to feel upset or guilty, [Mrs. Johansen](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Number-the-Stars/character-analysis/#Mrs._Johansen) comforts her, and then the Johansens begin preparations to get Ellen to safety. They are risking their own safety in an act of resistance. It is significant that part of this includes discussion of Lise, who, the reader will eventually learn, was a member of the Resistance movement in Denmark.

When the girls and Mrs. Johansen are traveling, the soldiers also try to lure them into confessions by asking about celebrating the "New Year." Most people in Denmark would celebrate the New Year on December 31st and January 1st, so by asking about it in September, the soldiers are asking, "are you Jews?"

This chapter continues to make references to the privations of the time. Cigarettes are a luxury. Annemarie knows the word must be code because she realizes how impossible it is to find them in Denmark at this point.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

After the solider leaves, [Papa](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/number-the-stars/characters) grows worried. He knows that the soldiers are now suspicious of their family. As the sky begins to lighten, [Annemarie](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/number-the-stars/characters/annemarie-johansen) worries aloud about how tired she and [Ellen](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/number-the-stars/characters/ellen-rosen) will be in school after a sleepless night—but Papa suggests the girls stay home from school, as the Nazis may go there looking for Jewish children, too. He calls [Mama](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/number-the-stars/characters/mrs-johansen-mama) into the room and tells her that it might be time to take the girls on a “vacation” to her brother [Henrik](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/number-the-stars/characters/uncle-henrik)’s home by the sea. Mama agrees, but says that she alone should be the one to take the girls so as not to arouse additional suspicion.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Though Annemarie sees the incident with the Nazis as the end of their family’s struggle with the soldiers and begins looking ahead to how to move on, Papa knows that it is just the beginning—as does Mama. They decide to remove the girls from the city in order to protect them. Already, things are more serious than Annemarie ever dreamed they’d be.

***Summary Part 2:***

While [Papa](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/number-the-stars/characters) goes to the phone to call [Uncle Henrik](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/number-the-stars/characters/uncle-henrik), [Annemarie](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/number-the-stars/characters/annemarie-johansen) explains to [Ellen](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/number-the-stars/characters/ellen-rosen) that her uncle is a fisherman who lives out at the coast. He goes out on his boat early every morning, and from the edge of the meadow near his house, one can look out across the water all the way to Sweden. Annemarie overhears her father’s phone conversation, in which he tells Henrik that [Mama](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/number-the-stars/characters/mrs-johansen-mama) will be bringing “a carton of cigarettes” to him later on in the day. Annemarie knows that there are no cigarettes to be found anywhere in Copenhagen, though, and realizes that her Papa is speaking about Ellen in code.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Though Annemarie originally believes that they really are simply going on a vacation, it soon becomes clear from the coded way Papa speaks about Ellen that there is a larger scheme going on, and that even in the countryside, the family will have to be careful to keep the truth of Ellen’s identity hidden.

***Summary Part 3:***

[Annemarie](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/number-the-stars/characters/annemarie-johansen), [Ellen](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/number-the-stars/characters/ellen-rosen), [Kirsti](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/number-the-stars/characters/kirsti-johansen), and [Mama](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/number-the-stars/characters/mrs-johansen-mama) make their way by train north along the Danish coast. The trip is beautiful, and Ellen is enchanted by the sights of nature and the many small villages they pass. The joy of the trip is hampered, though, when Nazis enter the train car and begin interrogating passengers. One officer asks Mama where she’s going, and when she says she’ visiting her brother at the coast, he asks if she’s going to celebrate the New Year. Mama plays dumb, and says it’s only October—too early for the New Year. When the excited Kirsti shows the soldier her new black shows, he laughs and moves on.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Even the peaceful train journey is interrupted by the presence of Nazi soldiers, signaling to both Annemarie and to the reader that things in Demark are growing more and more dire for Jews—or for anyone who dares to oppose the occupying regime.

***Summary Part 4:***

As the women step off the train and into the fresh seaside air, they feel relieved to be away from the soldiers—but still anxious. [Mama](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/number-the-stars/characters/mrs-johansen-mama), [Ellen](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/number-the-stars/characters/ellen-rosen), [Kirsti](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/number-the-stars/characters/kirsti-johansen), and [Annemarie](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/number-the-stars/characters/annemarie-johansen) begin the walk to [Uncle Henrik](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/number-the-stars/characters/uncle-henrik)’s house, and Mrs. Johansen remarks on how the neighborhood has changed. As Kirsti and Annemarie recognize more and more of the landscape and realize they are getting close to Henrik’s house, Kirsti asks to run ahead. Mama allows her to go, and, as she puts her arms around Ellen, instructs Kirsti to tell Henrik that they’ve brought along “a friend.”

***Analysis Part 4:***

Though Annemarie’s Mama knows more than anyone how much is at stake in the act of merely sheltering Ellen, she never sees the girl’s presence as a burden, and is instead happy to call Ellen a “friend” for whom she is making a conscious, willing sacrifice.