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Symbolism

Symbols are things that have special meanings. Discuss what symbols we see on a regular basis. Identify the symbolic meaning of each of the following:

1. stars on the United States flag

It means 50 States of the Union

2. the cross

The cross is the principal of the Christian religion and it is a sign both of Christ himself and of the faith of Christians

3. the Star of David

It means a symbolism indicating martyrdom and heroism and a religious symbol in Judaism

4. swastika

It was used by the Nazi Party to symbolize German nationalistic pride

Sometimes symbols are only for a specific story. In Number the Stars there are many symbols. What do you think these things mean?

5. Sweden

I think it symbolizes freedom, liberty, and justice

6. the sea

I think the sea is a symbol of power, strength, life, mystery, hope, and truth

7. shiny black boots

German soldiers, fear, danger, cruelty

I think shiny black boots symbolize kindness

What are other symbols you noticed in the book?

I noticed coffee symbolizes a part of life when they were free something they missed
Brilliant clear sky and sun symbolizes the girl is feeling happy and free

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Writer's Craft: Character Development

Think about Annemarie in the beginning of the book. Discuss: What was your first impression of her? Has that changed now that you have read more about her? Has Annemarie changed since the beginning of the book?

A good writer develops characters by showing how they respond to situations. Think of three "sticky" situations Annemarie has faced. How did she respond? What did the author do to help us understand Annemarie more as a person?

What happened? Situation: When Annemarie was running and there were soldiers coming around the corner.	How did Annemarie respond? She was very scared.	What did the author do to show character development? She started becoming very strong told her mom the story and told her everything was fine.
What happened? Situation: When the soldiers came to the Johansens house it was really hard to get her to leave.	How did Annemarie respond? She was really frightened and scared.	What did the author do to show character development? She made Ellen feel comfortable by being her protector.
What happened? Situation: When Kirsti talked to the soldier and mom told her to be quiet she didn't listen everyone was silent.	How did Annemarie respond? She was very frightened by it.	What did the author do to show character development? The author is demonstrating that Annemarie is getting used to this happening when she gazes out the window.

Good thinking!

